



St Andrew's, Bedford

All Age Worship

1st December 2024

Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

O come, you Splendour very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

O come, you Wisdom from on high, from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

Translation by Mark Belletini

Lighting the Advent Wreath

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Confession

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

Matthew 4: 18-20

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Noticing God

Hymn

Will you come and follow me SASP 204

Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25-36

Translation by Bob Hartman

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

"Look up, and you will see signs in the sun and the moon and the stars.

Listen up, and you will hear the roaring of the sea and the crashing of the waves and the distress of people on earth, confused by what is happening. Look around, and you will see people fainting and trembling with fear at all that is coming upon the world.

Now straighten up, and lift up your heads. For when all these things begin to happen, you will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds. Coming in power. Coming in glory."

Then Jesus told a parable story.

"Look at the fig tree," he said. "Look at any tree, for that matter. When you see the leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the very same way, when you see the things that I have just described, you will know that the Kingdom of God is near."

"Now look at yourselves," said Jesus, finally. "Watch that you don't get bogged down with bad choices and hard living and drunkenness and all that goes with being carried away with what this world has to offer. For everything that I said will happen, will happen, indeed - to everyone on earth. And if your attention is fixed on your own pleasure, then it will catch you out. But if you stay alert, and pay attention, and pray, then you will find the strength to escape all that will happen. And you will stand, at last, before the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Talk

Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

Song

Longing for Light SASP 125

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Closing Hymn

Advent Celebrate!

Sing a song, sing a joyful song,
Sing a joyful song to celebrate!

*Advent has begun
and we are counting down the days.
Before the Christmas fun
we say, "Look up! Prepare the way!" Alleluia!*

Clap your hands, clap your hands like this,
Clap your hands like this to celebrate!

Jump up and down, up and down and around,
Up and down and around to celebrate!

Dance to the beat, to the beat of the drum,
To the beat of the drum to celebrate!

Wave your hands, wave your hands in the air,
Wave your hands in the air to celebrate!

from Out of the Ark Music

Travelling Crib Blessing

Loving God,
Draw close to everyone who will welcome this travelling crib into their homes over Advent. May their acts of hospitality be an echo of the shelter we extend to all who wander - physically, emotionally or spiritually. Bless these figures of Mary and Joseph, and bless and protect the homes they will visit. Bring us all to a deeper sense of Christ's presence in our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, born in a manger, to draw us close to you.

Amen

The travelling crib is handed over

Minister: Will you take these figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey into your home?
Receivers: We will.
Minister: May they be a symbol to you of taking the Lord Jesus into your hearts this Christmas.
All: **Amen.**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen.