

CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

Isaiah 9:2

(Light the first candle)

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you are our hope.

When things are hard or scary, help us to remember you are near.

Shine your light in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

O COME, O COME, IMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice! rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.**

Rejoice! rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Rejoice! rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**John Mason Neale, Thomas Helmore
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

YOU ARE GLORIOUS

**You are glorious.
Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,
now exalted to the highest place of all,
Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all,
Lord of all.**

**And we belong to you, we love your name,
the name above all other names
and Your glory is upon us now
as we worship you, King of Kings.**

**You are glorious.
Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,
now exalted to the highest place of all,
Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all.
Lord of all.**

**Sharny Russel
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*The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of light and promise,
you call us to wake from our sleep and be ready for the coming of your Son.
Shine your light into our hearts, turn us away from the darkness of sin,
and clothe us with the life of Christ.
Make us people of peace, living each day in faith
and hope until your kingdom comes in all its glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PSALM 122

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'*

*Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.*

*Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.*

*That is where the tribes go up –
the tribes of the Lord –
to praise the name of the Lord
according to the statute given to Israel.*

*There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.*

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.'*

*For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your prosperity.*

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 - God's kingdom of peace

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Romans 13:11-14 - Our salvation is near

Understand the present time And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Matthew 24:36-44 - No one knows the day or hour

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

Jesus said: 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, who sent his light into the world and calls us to walk in the brightness of his love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world. Promised by the prophets, he came in humility at Bethlehem, lived among us full of grace and truth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose in glory to bring us life. Risen from the dead and ascended above, we await his coming again in power and majesty, to make all things new and to bring his kingdom of peace.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who kindles faith in our hearts, renews our hope, and prepares us for the coming of the Lord. We believe that the Church is called to be a light in the darkness, a sign of God's coming kingdom, and a people watching and waiting in joy. Therefore, with faith and longing, we proclaim: Come, Lord Jesus – our light, our life, our hope, and our peace. Amen.

LIGHT OF THE NATIONS

**Light of the nations,
hope of the helpless,
you are our freedom from every dark prison;
shine your light on the world,
shine your light on the world.**

**Light of the nations,
hope of the helpless,
you are our freedom from every dark prison;
shine your light on the world,
shine your light on the world.**

**Light of the nations,
hope of the helpless,
you are our freedom from every dark prison;
shine your light on the world,
shine your light on the world.**

Robin Mann

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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

**People who walk in darkness have sought
A light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost
We were draw to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

**How can we tell a heaven from hell
If everyone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
And we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

**Where is the sun? Oh there will be none –
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright.
Bids us to come; life has begun
When we're drawn to the light of God.**

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night!
Drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight
To be drawn to the light of God.**

John Ylvisaker

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OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God, we bring these gifts with thankful hearts.
You have called us to walk in your light and to be ready for the coming of Christ.
Use our offerings to bring peace and hope to the world,
that all may learn your ways and know your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6). Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your gifts to us, especially the gift of your dear Son. Give us ears to hear Jesus' call to us, and willing hearts to follow. Give your people grace to remain watchful, and keep your church in the truth of your word until Jesus comes as Lord and king.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for sending your Son as the Prince of Peace, to bring us pardon and peace with you. Bring your peace to the world, to our land, and to our lives. Help our elected leaders and all in positions of responsibility to build up the common good, and strengthen us to be your peace-makers.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the rich diversity of the world's cultures. Show your righteous ways to every people, and teach the nations to turn their swords into plowshares.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

You have dispelled the night of sin: help us to put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places. Today we pray specially for GLPS Students Logan in Year 1, Hudson & Elsie in Year 2, Pheonix in Year 3, Riley, Willow, Harvey & Kai in Year 4, Benjamin, Harriet & Max in Year 5, Kayden & Meredith in Year 6 and staff member Joelene G. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Cleanse our consciences, Lord God, and enlighten our hearts, through the daily presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us ready when he comes again in glory to be our judge. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE 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 forever. Amen.**

BLESSING TO SHARE

May you have peace in God's presence.
May you have peace in God's presence.
May God guide you to live in love and goodness.
May God guide you to live in love and goodness.
May Christ your Saviour keep you ready for his coming.
May Christ your Saviour keep you ready for his coming. Amen.

COME. LORD JESUS, COME

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Wars have come and wars have gone; Come, Lord, come!
Still the cry goes up, 'How long?' Come, Lord, come!**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Hearts are braking, tears fall down; Come, Lord come!
Come and free us, we are bound. Come, Lord come!**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Darkness grows as night wears one; Come, Lord come!
Will we live to see the dawn? Come, Lord come!**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Nations rise and nations fall; Come, Lord come!
God is with us through it all. Come, Lord come!**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

Robin Mann 1976.

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