

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



MEETING POINT

**Advent Sunday
28th November 2021**

**THE BEGINNING OF
THE END**



Online Worship

Welcome to our Online Worship – **Meeting Point**

*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,
our Online Worship continues in ‘Meeting Point’ –
we are joined together as one worshipping family through
our services at home and in church through the seasons
of the*

Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.

*Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we
explore readings from scripture and experiences from our
day to day lives.*

*Advent Sunday marks the start of a new Church Year. It
reminds us that the story we tell every twelve months
begins with a solemn time of preparation. We prepare to
welcome the Lord Jesus Christ when he comes in glory at
the end of time. We also prepare to welcome him again as
the baby born in Bethlehem.*

*Advent is, then, a solemn time but one filled with joyful
expectation and hope.*

Thanks to our ministry team and members of the church family for sharing in this meeting point podcast.



In many churches and homes we have an Advent candle ring during these four weeks. There is a candle for each Sunday with a special central candle to be lit on Christmas Day. You may wish to use your handicraft skills to make your own ring or perhaps to have a small single candle or tea-light to mark each week as you listen to and share in this service.

“ADVENT 1955” An excerpt from the poem by John Betjamen

The Welcome

Fr. Paul introduces today's service

Hymn

**1. Hills of the north, rejoice;
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing;
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgment brings and victory.**



**2. Isles of the southern seas,
Deep in your coral caves
Pent be each warring breeze,
Lulled be your restless waves:
He comes to reign with boundless sway,
And makes your wastes his great highway.**

**3. Lands of the East, awake,
Soon shall your sons be free;
The sleep of ages break,
And rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and gray,
Has dawned the everlasting day.**

**4. Shores of the utmost West,
Ye that have waited long,
Unvisited, unblessed,
Break forth to swelling song;
High raise the note, that Jesus died,
Yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.**



**5. Shout, while ye journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the North we come,
From East, and West, and South.
City of God, the bond are free,
We come to live and reign in thee!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light a candle at home, as today, we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath for we look to the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World:

Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.'

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.**



The Gathering - Michelle

It is time for us to wake out of sleep,
for deliverance is nearer to us now
than it was when first we believed.
The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.

The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The Collect of Advent Sunday - Linda



Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BIBLE READING **Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus said; "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Hymn

- 1 **Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

- 2 **Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
*Chorus***

- 3 **Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
*Chorus***

- 4 **Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.
*Chorus***

- 5 **Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
*Chorus***

Bernadette Farrell (born 1957)

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READING THE SIGNS

We meet Nick and Chris who need to read and understand the signs of the times around them for their work. We ask if we should be more observant and responsive in the world around us

REFLECTION by Paul

Hymn

**1 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?**

**2 Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!**

**3 This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.**

**4 Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.**



Prayers of Intercession – led by David Richardson

Come, Lord, come among us.
Enter into our darkness with your light.
Come fill our emptiness with your presence.
Dispel the clouds and reveal your glory.
Come refresh, renew, restore us.
Come Lord, come down, come in, come among us.

Come, Lord, be known in your Church,
for without you we have no message, we have no power.
Come fill us with your presence,
that we may proclaim your peace.

Come, Lord, and give peace to your world.
Disperse the clouds of war and let your power and glory
be revealed to the nations.
We pray for all who watch and wait while we sleep:
for the police and emergency services and all who work in the dark hours of
the night.

Come, Lord, be known in our homes,
that we may reflect your love.
Come in our work places
that they may reflect your glory;

Come Lord, make us alert to your coming,
that we may reveal your glory in all the world.
We pray for those who are unwell,
those who walk in darkness,
that they may see your light.

Come, Lord, of our salvation,
save us and we shall be saved.
We pray for friends and loved ones departed,
especially remembering those known to us.
May they now rejoice in the fullness of your presence and your glory.

Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.
Enter into our darkness with your light. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And so we pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words that Jesus himself taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace - Michelle

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.



cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you;
And also with you.

Hymn

**1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Refrain

**3 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.**

Refrain

**4 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.**

Refrain



The Blessing - Michelle

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 this day and remain with you always.

Amen



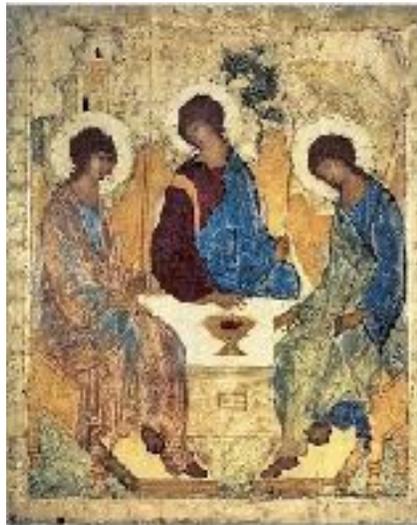
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