



*Gathering Poem – This long, dark, restless night.....*

*Welcome and Introduction*

*Lighting the first Advent Candle*

*Opening song*

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still, the greatest treasure remains  
for those who gladly choose you now.

*Repeat*

## *Call to Confession*

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days.

But watch what God does during this time.

God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths;

God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life.

Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

## *Prayer of Confession*

**It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.**

**There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget.**

**There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try.**

**There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.**

**Forgive us, God who comes near to us.**

**When we have lost our way, show us yours.**

**Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.**

**Teach us your truth,**

**so we might be able to keep your Word,**

**revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.**

*Silence is kept*

## *Assurance of Pardon*

God does not remember our sins,

but does remember the promises which have been made to us.

God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

**Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.**

**You are the God of our days,**

**we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

## *Collect*

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 forever.

## *Songs:*

### **Soon and very soon we are going to see the king**

Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, we're going to see the king

No more crying there, we are going to see the king  
No more crying there, we are going to see the king  
No more crying there, we are going to see the king  
No more crying there, we are going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, we're going to see the king

No more dying there, we are going to see the king  
No more dying there, we are going to see the king  
No more dying there, we are going to see the king  
No more dying there, we are going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, we're going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, we're going to see the king  
Alleluia alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**In Christ alone my hope is found,**  
He is my light, my strength, my song:  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All.  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ Alone! Who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid.  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in Victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Brought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Bible Readings:  
Romans 13:11-14  
Mark 13:24-37

## Sermon

### *Prayer of Intercession*

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

**All: Our Father in heaven**

**Hallowed be your name**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day 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**

#### *The Peace*

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: and also with you.**

#### *Offertory Song:*

*(At this point we would normally bring our gifts to God. Thankfully you are still able to faithfully give by using either the donate button on our website: Click here [Giving to Ascension](#). Or make an online payment to the church account 'The Church of the Ascension PCC' Sort Code: 206788 Account No: 10990779)*

## **I see the King of glory**

Coming on the clouds with fire.  
The whole earth shakes,  
The whole earth shakes.  
I see His love and mercy  
Washing over all our sin.  
The people sing,  
The people sing.

*Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.*

I see a generation  
Rising up to take their place  
With selfless faith, with selfless faith.  
I see a new revival,  
Stirring as we pray and seek.  
We're on our knees, we're on our knees.

Heal my heart and make it clean;  
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.  
Show me how to love like You have loved me.  
Break my heart for what breaks Yours.  
Everything I am's for Your Kingdom's cause,  
As I walk from earth into eternity.

*Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.*

## **Notices**

## **Birthdays**

## *Closing Song:*

### **Jesus hope of the nations**

Jesus comfort for all who mourn

You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth

Jesus light in the darkness

Jesus truth in each circumstance

You are the source of Heaven's light on earth

In history You lived and died

You broke the chains You rose to life

You are the hope living in us

You are the rock in whom we trust

You are the light

Shining for all the world to see

You rose from the dead conquering fear

Our Prince of Peace drawing us near

Jesus our hope living for all who will receive

Lord we believe

### *Final 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be

with you all, now and forever.

**All: Amen**