



Gathering Poem – A secret seed.....

Welcome and Introduction

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

Opening song

There is power in the name of Jesus

We believe in his name

We have called on the name of Jesus

We are saved we are saved

At his name the demons flee

At his name captives are freed

For there is no other name that is higher
than Jesus!

There is power in the name of Jesus

Like a sword in our hands

We declare in the name of Jesus

We shall stand! we shall stand!

At his name God's enemies

Shall be crushed beneath our feet

For there is no other name that is higher
Than Jesus!

Prayer of longing

ALL: We all have our longings, faithful Lord, and we bring them to you as part of our worship.

LEADER: Abraham and Sarah spent 25 years, longing for their promised son. Moses waited 40 years, longing for his people to enter the Promised Land. David endured 15 years, longing to take his rightful place as king. Esther waited, fasting and praying, for three days before she went before the king.

ALL: We all have our longings, faithful Lord, and we bring them to you as part of our worship.

LEADER: Israel waited 600 years between exile and the coming of the longed-for Messiah. Hebrews tells us: “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

ALL: We all have our longings, faithful Lord, and we bring them to you as part of our worship.

LEADER: Today, some of us are waiting for answers to prayer. Some long for relationships to be mended, or to begin. Some ache for a world of justice where all are treated fairly. Some are hungry for meaning, purpose, and joy in their lives.

ALL: We all have our longings, faithful Lord, and we bring them to you as part of our worship.

Let's take a moment of silence now, to bring our personal longings before God. [pause]

LEADER: Let's say together one more time:

ALL: We all have our longings, faithful Lord, and we bring them to you as part of our worship.

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever.

Quiz of the Week

Song:

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger

Your name is great, and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

*Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

*Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
[Repeat]*

*[Closing]
Worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name;
Sing like never before,
O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name;
Worship Your holy name (x2)*

Psalm 126 – video in church

When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, “What amazing things the Lord has done for them.” Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy! Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert. Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

Bible Readings:
Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Reflection: Journey of Joy and Disappointment

Prayer of Intercession: Based on Isaiah 35

....We proclaim that Jesus, you have come
**All: and you will come again, help us work for
the justice of your Kingdom**

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).



Alternatively, you can scan this QR Code which will take you directly to the giving page on our website:

Light of the world,

You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross. (*Repeat,*)

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

Holy Communion

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.
**All: This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story:
**All: This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
He took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story:
All: This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to
plead for us and all the world.
This is our story:
All: This is our song
Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this
food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in
heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for
ever and ever. Amen**

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one bread.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Notices

Birthdays

Closing Song:

Have You Heard The Good News?

Have You Heard The Good News?

We Can Live In Hope

Because Of What The Lord Has Done. [Repeat]

There Is A Way

When There Seems To Be No Way,

There Is A Light In The Darkness:

There Is A Hope,

An Everlasting Hope,

There Is A God Who Can Help Us.

Have You Heard The Good News?

Have You Heard The Good News?

We Can Live In Hope

Because Of What The Lord Has Done. [Repeat]

A Hope For Justice

And A Hope For Peace,

A Hope For Those In Desperation:

We Have A Future,
If Only We Believe
He Works In Every Situation.

*Have You Heard The Good News?
Have You Heard The Good News?
We Can Live In Hope
Because Of What The Lord Has Done.*

Final Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy;
and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
And the blessing ...

All: Amen