



## Advent Sunday 27th November

### Opening Responses

Today is God's day of hope  
(All) **hope for us, hope for all humanity**  
The darkness that surrounds us  
**will not overtake us,**  
for God is light; and in God there is no  
darkness at all.  
**Come,**  
**let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

### Lighting the Advent Candle

**Dear God, As we begin our Advent  
pilgrimage, grant us like Abraham and  
Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old the  
courage to hope.**  
**Hope for your presence,**  
**Hope for your peace,**  
**Hope for your promise.**  
**Amen.**

### Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness, and will  
disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us  
confess our sins:  
**All Lord God, we have sinned against  
you; we have done evil in your sight.**  
**We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on  
us according to your love.**  
**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse  
us from our sin.**  
**Renew a right spirit within us and restore  
us to the joy of your salvation;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Absolution

## Gradual Hymn Hills of the North

1 Hills of the north, rejoice,  
echoing songs arise,  
hail with united voice  
him who made earth and skies:  
he comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.

2 Isles of the southern seas,  
sing to the list'ning earth,  
carry on ev'ry breeze  
hope of a world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.

3 Lands of the east, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
the God whom you have longed to know  
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

4 Shores of the utmost west,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heav'nly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5 Shout, as you journey on,  
songs be in ev'ry mouth,  
lo, from the north they come,  
from east and west and south:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the longing earth be blest.

### Reading: **Mark 13:24-end**

*At end of reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

## The Apostles' Creed

**All:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## Prayers

### Intercessions

*The response to:* 'Lord in your Mercy'  
Is; '**Hear our Prayer**'

*Intercessions conclude with:*

Merciful father, **Accept these prayers for  
the sake of your son, Our Saviour, Jesus  
Christ, Amen.**

### The 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 for ever. **All: Amen**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

## 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.

### Refrain

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. **Refrain**

**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. **Refrain**

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

**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. **Refrain**

© Bernadette Farrell 1993

## Notices

### Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his  
kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in  
power, reveal in our midst the promise of  
his glory. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us  
steadfast in faith and joyful in hope  
**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

### Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**