



GARROWBY BENEFICE

Advent 2: A Service of the Word

Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel

Introduction

Approach to God

God, our Father, our Mother and our Shepherd.
You come close to us when we need you,
And you are there when we think that we don't.

**All Good and faithful God, you are beside us all the way,
When we notice and when we don't.**

Tending and mindful, leading and feeding.
Your eyes never stray from us.

**All Call us back again merciful God, to be with you in this hallowed time
and space.**

Call us beyond our small notions, beyond our great dreams, to see beauty
and potential where we haven't thought to look.

**All May these days and weeks be a true advent of new thinking, new
experiencing, new communion with you, our loving God.**

All Amen

Hymn Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Thanksgiving

You are wise O Lord our God, in giving us waiting times.

Thank you for what we have learned in those times.

To trust while we have not yet received; to dig in and build resilience while
we live without; to hang on tenaciously in the seeming nothingness.

Thank you for the chance to stop and question....how ready am I?

To take stock, prepare, and re-order our priorities; to keep asking in
accordance with our confidence in you; to do the things to help the birth of
all that we hope for.

God you too are waiting.

Thank you for waiting for us...

Waiting for our attention; whilst we are preoccupied;

Waiting for our co-operation because you believe in the work we can do;

waiting with your story to retell and retell, because we always need to hear it again.

Thank you that you waited for the right time and became one of us.

Thank you Jesus for your waiting and preparing, so that through you, we would see the life of God walking among us.

Give us wisdom in this waiting time, so that when you come again we are ready to welcome with open arms, all that you have yet to offer and teach and give.

In your name we ask it, our Friend and Saviour.

All Amen

Confession

Dearest God,

Constant in the face of our fickleness. Covenant keeper in the face of our betrayals. Reveal to us again just how kind and forgiving you are.

All Where we are being too hard on ourselves, help us to learn tenderness.

When we start raking over old hurts, teach us to sooth what is sore, and to trust that you are putting us back together again.

You sit with us in all that we find hard to move past, our own failings and the failings of others which hurt us.

All We look to you for courage and grace to forgive ourselves and forgive others.

We look to you for the example of bearing grievance without hitting back.

All Make us merciful as you are merciful, and generous in our warmth towards all.

All Amen

Absolution

May Almighty God whose love is infinite and mercy everlasting forgive your sins and welcome you back into His peace.

All Amen

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Hymn Purify my heart

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3 1-6

All Glory to you O Lord

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

An Advent Creed

**All We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
The one who is full of patience,
who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not jostle for attention.
We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.
We believe in one God
who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same.**

by D. Hopwood and Sam Hargreaves

Hymn: I will wait for you (Based on psalm 130)

Intercessions

THE LORDS PRAYER

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.**

Ending

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and 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; so that, at 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord
In the midst of your temple

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed
And all flesh shall see it together

Show us your mercy, O Lord
And grant us your salvation

Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life.

All Amen

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

All Amen

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

All Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, your homes and all whom you love, now and always.

All Amen

Hymn *Come thou long expected Jesus*