

GARROWBYBENEFICE

Advent 3: A service of the Word



Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Introduction & Call to Prayer

In this season of Advent, as we gather to wait in the darkness of winter nights for Jesus our Light to come, may our hearts be filled with joy and promise.

Let us pause for a moment to let God enter into the silence of our hearts.
(Silence)

We begin our Advent Worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Light and peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Thanks be to God

We gather during this Third week of Advent to pray for the grace we need to live as people of hope. The Advent wreath symbolizes our growing hope and anticipation that the Lord Jesus may enter our lives more fully. Let us pray that this wreath may remind us to bring the light of Christ to the darkness of this world.

Heavenly Father, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Saviour, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us and upon the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendour of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Hymn: Come down O love divine

We light the 1st Advent Candle

God, we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus, into our hearts and our lives this Advent. Help us to always follow him as the light of the world. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

All Amen.

We light the 2nd Advent candle

God, we look forward to Christmas and the joy it brings. Help us to share our happiness with others during this Advent season. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

All Amen.

We light the 3rd Advent Candle

God, as Christmas draws nearer we decorate our homes in preparation for our celebration of the birthday of Jesus. Help us remember always that Jesus is the reason for our celebration.

All Lord, come and save us. Amen

God, during this Advent season we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Help us to be the kind of people you created us to be now and throughout the year.

All Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Confession

Merciful God, we are sinners who are in need of transformed hearts. Remove from us our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh, hearts of mercy.

Help us to become saints— not someone who is perfect, but a sinner who is saved by the grace of Christ, who is good and merciful, and who pardons us from our sins.

We ask you to forgive all our sins as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

All O God our Father, in choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, we have sinned against you whom we should love above all things.

We firmly intend, with the grace of your help, to avoid the temptation that leads us to wrong doing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our God.

Have mercy on us.

Amen.

Absolution

May our merciful God, giver of peace and lover of reconciliation, forgive your sins and cleanse you from all wrong doing.

All Amen

Hymn: Come be our light

Ministry of the Word

A New testament Reading: Philippians 4 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

The Gospel : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 3 7-18

All Glory to you O Lord

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn: On Jordan's bank

Intercessions ending with

The Lords' Prayer

**All 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray that our Advent worship will inspire us to prepare the way of the Lord.

God our Father, you have heard our prayers. Help us to come daily into your presence to draw closer to you. May we share what we have received with others during this Holy season. And may we keep our minds and hearts on the coming of your kingdom now and always.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Blessing

May the light of Christ shine in your lives.

All Now and forever.

Loving God, We give you thanks for the blessings of this Holy Advent season.

All You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things.

We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas.

All Help us to turn toward that light in our lives.

We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name.

All May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives.

Your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever.

All Amen.

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and for evermore.

All Amen.

Hymn: Be thou my vision