

Douglas Union with Frankfield  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)  
A SERVICE OF THE WORD

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Now is the time to wake from sleep: our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. *Romans 13*

**LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE**

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.



**HYMN 3 (Thanks & Praise)** *Advent Candles (verse 1)*

**PENITENCE**

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1: 8,9*

Lord, we confess that we have not used our time and our gifts wisely, creatively and unselfishly: forgive us for misusing or wasting them. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord, we have not always lived in your light, or reflected it into the world's darkness: forgive us for being set in our ways or complacent. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, we have sometimes ended the day in anger and hurt: forgive us for being unrepentant and unforgiving. **Lord, have mercy.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**HYMN 124** *Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes (verses 1 & 2)*

## **COLLECT of the DAY**

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **READING – Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### **PSALM 80:1-8, 18-20**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

And so will we not go back from you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

**Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **READING – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**HYMN 135** *O come, O come, Emmanuel (verse 1)*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN135** *O come, O come, Emmanuel (verse 2)*

## **AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

**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** [*‘Maranatha’- from the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus – means ‘Our Lord, come.’ It was used in Christian worship from early times.*]

God, our Father in heaven, we pray that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as King and Judge, he will find us neither dead in sin nor asleep in apathy but alive in the Spirit and obedient in his service. Help us this Advent, and always, to prepare for his coming. Maranatha. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father God, we long for that Day when every person will acknowledge Jesus as their Saviour and King. We pray for Paul our Bishop and all ministers of God’s word and sacraments, that they may serve your Church in love and build up your people in truth. We pray for St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, its congregation, choir and clergy as tomorrow we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the present building. We pray for our own parish in this season of Advent. Give us your Spirit that we may be witnesses of Christ’s saving grace and agents of his peace. Maranatha. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father God, we long for that Day when the prejudice and fears that divide people will lose their power, and all the wrongs will be put right. We pray for our President and all in authority in this land. We pray for the leaders of the nations and all places where there is conflict, inequality or great suffering. Strengthen us to break down barriers, work for justice and heal the world’s brokenness. Maranatha. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father God, we long for that Day when there will be no more sorrow or pain. We pray for those who suffer now from poverty, loneliness, or prolonged ill-health. As the Mothers’ Union is engaged in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, we pray for all victims of abuse. Bless those who care for them, and grant to all who are in need, healing and strength, perseverance, and hope. Maranatha. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father God, we pray for the bereaved and we remember with thanksgiving those who have died... Grant us with them and with all the saints a share in your eternal kingdom. Maranatha. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **A Prayer as we Prepare to Re-open our Church Buildings**

Creator God, not limited by time or space;  
your Son worshipped in synagogue and Temple,  
and your Spirit came in power on the disciples as they met in the Upper Room.  
By that same Spirit,  
guide us as we prepare to reopen the churches in this parish and diocese.  
May they be places of safety, where all feel your welcome, experience your love, and  
are equipped in your service.

We pray for those who through age or vulnerability will continue to worship at home, that together we may all rejoice in your goodness and know your blessing, until we can offer unceasing praise in your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us; **Our Father...**

**HYMN 124** *Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes (verses 3 & 4)*

## **DISMISSAL**

Almighty God, by your command time runs its course;  
forgive our impatience, perfect our faith,  
and while we wait for the fulfilment of your promises,  
grant us to have a good hope because of your word;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you:

And the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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