



## **St Botolph's and Castle Methodist Advent Sunday and Covenant Renewal**

### **Welcome**

We meet in the name of God: **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son.

**Awaken our hearts to you as we journey through Advent, so that we are ready to receive Jesus with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **We say sorry to God and one another**

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.  
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

### **We are forgiven**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Prayer for today**

**Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Jesus is coming**

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.**

**Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.**

## **Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 33:14-16** *read by David Root*

<sup>14</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfil the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>15</sup> “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.”

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

## **The Gospel Reading - Luke 21:25-36** *(please stand) read by David Root*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> ‘There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

<sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ <sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: ‘Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

<sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup> 'Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>34</sup> 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** – Rev Chris Preece

## **Hymn**

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.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts,*  
*shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

### **We affirm our faith in God**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Renewal of the Covenant between St Botolph's and Castle  
Methodist Churches**

## **Prayers of Intercession ending with the Lord's Prayer** *led by Nicky*

*Philips*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today 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 for ever. Amen**

### **Notices**

#### **Hymn**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His Word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forevermore!

#### **We are sent out**

**In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose, and to praise your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Voluntary** - Wachet auf chorale from the Cantata by J.S. Bach

*Please stay for refreshments in the hall (at the end of the corridor)*

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## **NOTICES**

Tomorrow, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, WGT meets at 2.30.p.m. at Castle Methodist Church. Speaker Robin Spittle – “The gift of Christmas”. Members are asked to bring an item that they have received as a gift. All are welcome

**Advent Study Course** - Our Advent Study Course continues on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am, beginning with refreshments. Everyone is welcome as we journey through this special season together. Please contact Emma for more details: [revehmasmith@outlook.com](mailto:revehmasmith@outlook.com)

**Midday Prayer Space** – Wednesdays, 12-1pm A quiet, reflective space in the church for prayer and/or a peaceful space away from the hustle and bustle of the city. All are welcome to pop in.

If you could deliver Christmas cards in the parish, please sign on the list in The Welcome Area for the road/s in which you can deliver.

David Poppleton has tickets for the Army ABF concert on 11<sup>th</sup> December, should you wish to come along. It is always popular.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 am – Holy Communion led by Ven. Michael Fox

15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am – Morning Worship led by LLM Clive Joyce

22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30am - Carol Service led by Revd. Chris and Revd. Emma Smith

24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm. – Holy Communion led by Revd. Chris Smith

29<sup>th</sup> December. We join Castle Methodists at 10.30 for Morning Worship.

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905  
Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461

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