



Service Sheet

3rd December 10.30am, St Mary's
Romans: Mission.
How can we be ambitious with the Gospel?
Advent Sunday

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website (www.denhamparish.church) or Facebook page (facebook.com/denhamparish.church).

Christoph Lindner, Rector

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus said 'keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

Amen: Come soon, Lord Jesus!

(The first candle is lit.)

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

HYMN

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

CONFESSION

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ and his resurrection. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

COLLECT

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.**

"GOD SO LOVED..."

SONG

I am a city on a hill
I am a light in the darkness
Jesus living in me can change the world
(x2)

Let my light shine let my light shine
Let my light shine
(x2)

*If God is for me who can stand against me
Let my light shine let my light shine
Let my light shine
(x2)*

We are a city on a hill
We are a light in the darkness
Jesus living in us can change the world
(x2)

Let your light shine let your light shine
Let your light shine. Let it shine
(x2)

*If God is for us who can stand against us
Let your light shine let your light shine
Let your light shine (x2)*

(The children leave for Sunday Club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Matthew 28.18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

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

SECOND READING:

Romans 15.13-20, 30, 16.25-27

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

³⁰ I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

16 ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN

And can it be that I should gain
an in'trest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown,
through Christ my own.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.

MISSION UPDATE

PRAYERS

We pray for our five mission partners: BRF Ministries, Church Army, SHOC/Trinity, Tearfund and Wycliffe Bible Translators. We thank you for their sharing of good news in action and word and pray that you would sustain and inspire them. May they see rich fruit in their work for you.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**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**

HYMN

We won't fear the battle
We won't fear the night
We will walk the Valley with You by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only You can save

*Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us*

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still Your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward
with never-ending grace

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave His Son to free us
Holds me in His love (x2)

BLESSING

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15.13)

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Let's pray together....

- For those suffering the consequences of war, natural disasters and oppression. We pray especially for the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and in Ukraine.
- For those who have lost loved ones especially the families of Elizabeth Grimes, Alastair McGhee and Ronald Barber.

Diary

TODAY, Sunday 3rd, 3.30pm
Advent Cafe Church. St Mark's

MONDAY 4th, 11.15am
Funeral Elizabeth Grimes. St Mary's

TUESDAY 5th, 7.30pm
PCC Meeting. St Mary's

WEDNESDAY 6th Dec
Little Lions toddler group. St Mark's.
Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

SATURDAY 9th, 2 pm
Carols & Readings. Denham Garden Village.

SUNDAY 10th Decemeber
9am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion with Sunday Club
4pm Christingle Service.

Christingle Collection

Please take a Christingle collection candle from the back of church and return by 25th Dec. All proceeds will go to the Children's Society.



GIVE AND SHARE

Helpers needed please from 6th to 15th December - *Give and Share* will be distributing Christmas hampers to needy families in the local community through local schools. 6th -8th – drivers needed to collect and transport from supermarkets to St Mark’s Hall. 9th-15th – packers needed at St Mark’s Hall and drivers to distribute hampers to local schools. **Please contact Dexter** dexterbrown125@gmail.com or text 07903 476535 if you can help in any way. Please pick up a flyer at the back of church to find out what items are needed.

(Space for your notes)

SHARING THE GOSPEL IN THREE WAYS *(Rom 15.17-20)*

