Advent week1 Hope - 1st December



I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths. *Psalm 25, 2-5*

Greetings

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

Leader. O God, make speed to save us. **All. O Lord, make haste to help us**.

Leader. Reveal among us the light of your presence
All that we may behold your power and glory.

Leader. Loving God, we give thanks for calling us to come together in worship, reflection, and celebration as one fellowship in this first week of Advent
Although we are in our separate homes your Spirit holds us firmly together,
Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator of light and darkness,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
As evening falls, you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

Leader. May your word be a lantern to our feet
and a light upon our path
that we may behold your coming among us.
Strengthen us in **our** stumbling weakness
and free **our** tongues to sing **your** praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

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Lighting of Advent Candle

Leader Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,



Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.
Lord God, let **your** blessing come upon us
as we light our candles.

And now we light our Advent candle,
May its light give us the Hope at Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reader. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord**. Amen."**

Leader. When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. *1 Corinthians 4.5*

Leader. Turn to us again, O God our saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy. **All. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader . Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy. **All. Christ, have mercy.**

leader. Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy. **All. Lord, have mercy.**

Said Hymn *O come, O come, Immanuel*
Reader. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations,
Bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
All. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading.
Leader. Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
All. Alleluia *Isaiah 40.3–5*

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Hear the words of the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John **All. Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1. 1-18 The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.
He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. All **Praise to you, O Christ**.

Let us Pray

L. O come, O come Emmanuel and grant us the time and energy, the vision and the wisdom to review how we each live our life – with our family, our friends, our community, our work and most importantly, with our God.
And as we enter a new season for our Church, we pray for those who have lost faith through disappointment or indifference, that their relationship with our loving Saviour is renewed and refreshed
Lord of our Advent journey,------- **hear our prayer**

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Reader. Ever loving God, as the winter begins, we pray for the homeless that they may receive food, shelter, and the medical care they need Bless and strengthen those who work with homeless people,
and challenge us all to open our hearts to those in need.
Lord of our Advent journey, ------- **hear our prayer**

Reader. Faithful God. we place in your hands those who are sick. We ask that you ease their pain, and heal the damage they are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Be present with them through the support of friends and in the care of doctors and nurses.
In a moment of quietness, we name in our hearts those we know who are in need at this time……...

Moment of Quiet
Lord of our Advent journey**,------- hear our prayer**

Leader. Lord we bring before the named sick
Names
May Christs healing hand rest on them and give Them wholeness of body, mind and spirit and also give their families peace and comfort amen.

We pray for all who have departed this life, for past members of this community, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time
Let light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in peace
All. **AND RISE IN GLORY**

Merciful God, we pray for those who are bereaved.
May the light of Christ which eternally shines,
bring hope to their dark places.

Father, we rejoice all our prayers in fellowship with St Matthew, all the saints, with those of our Blessed Mother.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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O come, O Come, Emmanuel to all corners of our life in the coming week, and help us to listen to your voice and be obedient to your will..

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

The Peace

Leader May the God of peace make us completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be with you, All. **and also with you.**

Prayer for Spiritual Unity

L. The Lord be with you **all. and also with you.**
R. The Lord is here. **all. His Spirit is with us**.
L. Lift up your hearts. **all. We lift them to the Lord.**

L. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
all. It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader Father, accept all we bring before you this evening.
Guide us with your love and feed our spirit as you nourish the faith of the Church by the preaching of your apostles.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader. Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
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 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,
Forever and ever. Amen.
Jesus said, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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.Leader. My Jesus,
We believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
We love You above all things,
and desire to receive You into our souls.
Since we cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into our hearts.
all. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Leader. Come, Holy Spirit. **All. Blessed be God,**
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
all. Blessed be God for ever.

Moment of silent reflection.
Leader We Thank Him for entering beneath the roof of our soul
As we say, Soul of Christ**,…….. sanctify me.**
Body of Christ**, …….save me.**
Blood of Christ, **……inebriate me.**
Water from the side of Christ**….. wash me.**
Passion of Christ, **……strengthen me.**
O good Jesu, hear me. Within your wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from you.
all. From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me and bid me come to you.

Leader And that with St Matthew, and all your Saints
All. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day Amen.

Leader Almighty God, through Your Blessed Sacrament, keep us united with all our brothers and sisters here at St Matthews and throughout the church.
Bind us together in Word, Sacrament and Love, until we are reunited again in Your church**. Amen.**

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NOTICES .

Leader. Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love,
All. would keep your watch around us while we sleep.

Reader From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
All. That we no sinful thought may know.

R. O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
All. And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing
Leader.The God of all grace, who with St Matthew and all the saints, called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle us in the faith;
and we pray that
All. the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Leader. Let us go in peace. We go into the world
to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect the Joy of God's glory. **Amen.**

x-x-x-x-xx-x-x-x-x-xx-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x—x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-
Goodbyes
Leader. Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
Loud Response by All. I come to Christ.

Leader. The Lord bless us and keep us;
The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace

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Let us bless the Lord. **All, Thanks be to God.**

and **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.**