

WORSHIP AT HOME

On SUNDAY 29th November

The first Sunday in Advent

You may like to make an Advent candle wreath. Or you could use the sheet attached and place some foil on, or colour the candle in each week through Advent, or you may have an idea of your own. However we do this let's mark these four weeks of Advent, waiting to celebrate Christmas day, maybe in a new way this year.

**“With my whole heart I will worship
Holding nothing back, Hallelujah”**

Loving, faithful God, as your people of old waited and watched for Your coming to earth in Jesus, so we wait and watch today. As we come before you now, waiting and watching, **Fill us with light**



(If you have an Advent wreath with you please symbolically light the candle now)

Let's sing this HYMN together

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 forever more!

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AND WE PRAY

Loving, faithful God,

We praise you for your faithfulness to your people through all the years, they hoped and were not disappointed;

In Jesus they saw you come as humankind, sharing our life so we might share yours.

And we have known you in our lives, in blazes of glory and quiet moments, through the power of your Spirit

We know the hope that you will come again in glory, in light and power that we cannot even imagine.

WE ARE SORRY for the times we have been too impatient to wait for things, for when we have lost heart.

God waits in love for us to turn back to the right Way,Here we are Lord....

You forgive and renew us as we look to You.

May the joy we know of knowing you in our lives, be visible and audible to all those we meet so that they also can experience your ultimate divine power for themselves. AMEN

Jeremiah 18 vs 1-6 at the Potter's House

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: “Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.” So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

LET'S REFLECT

Jeremiah was a prophet from 640 - 609bc. God's words through him to the people were about judgement and repentance (turning away from wrong and back to God) In this reading we hear about Jeremiah's visit to the potters' house. When I was at school we used to do pottery in art lessons. First we'd watch as the teacher would get a piece of clay, throw it onto the wheel, add water, and within minutes produce a beautiful pot which he would remove with a piece of wire. They'd then either place it on a shelf ready to be fired, or remake it into something new.



It looked easy, but we all know it isn't as simple as that - often I would begin really well and then the 'pot' would collapse into a heap.

The most important thing when throwing a pot is to centre the clay, if it isn't centred then it won't work.

We can consider what people and influences have shaped our lives over the years.

What circumstances we allow to shape who we are and what we do.

As Christians, centring on Jesus is vital. It's about allowing Jesus - the stories, teaching, and responses we read about in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) to help us find the right perspective in life. We find then that things which could move and shake us off skew, actually come into perspective through centring on the Jesus way.

We all need time and space to do this, it may be a walk outside, a quiet space indoors, music, silence, meditation, whatever it is that works for us, and it's good practice and discipline to be 'in that space' before the world's and day's circumstances start to pull and push us about, and knock us off centre. We then find that we can find 'the space' at the end of the day to say thank you for how the day has been 'easier' to cope with through Jesus.



Make it the gift we give ourselves for Advent

LET'S SING TOGETHER

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart, prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

A time of prayer Loving God, You entered our world as a human in Jesus. We wait through these 4 weeks of Advent to celebrate Your birth.

As we contemplate the candle flame flickering, we remember your words - "I am the light of this dark world" and we pray now for those whose lives have lost their brightness

-Those who are waiting - for tests, results, confirmation, encouragement, food, water, peace, freedom.....

-Those who are worrying - about today, tomorrow, the future for themselves and their families.....

-Those who are frightened - because of those they live with, and those they live without

-Those who are wondering and have no idea - how, what, where, when, who....

- for leaders of countries, churches, governments Facing uncertainty and criticism

- We pray for those who are ill, all who are close to death, and all who watch and wait with them.

May we watch and wait with them, be people of peace and justice, and bring hope, comfort and healing, light in the darkness.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father....

OUR OFFERING

These are the gifts we lay aside, give at other times, hold now, and the gifts of ourselves. We offer them willingly, knowing that in Your hands Lord they will become miracles on earth. AMEN

AND WE SING TOGETHER - in our minds we can hear each other's voices ...

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy one

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart

give thanks to the Holy one

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son

And now, let the weak say "I am strong"

Let the poor say "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us,

And now, let the weak say "I am strong"

Let the poor say "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us,

Give thanks...

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Blessing

May the words of my mouth,
and the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus
And the deeds of the day,
And the truth in my ways,
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus. AMEN