

# Worship Together - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Welcome to today's worship service!

I hope you are keeping well and are continuing to know God's encouragement and leading during these weeks.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and marks a time in the church calendar when we focus on the coming of Jesus both in the first Christmas and in his future return as King of kings.

We will have a message from Vincent Buchanan based on Matthew 1, and before that we will spend time worshipping God together.

But first, some **notices to take notice of:**

1. The church will reopen for Morning Worship next Sunday 6th December 2020. Please join us in our covid safe space for worship at 10.30AM if you can.
2. Home Mission Appeal has raised £220. The appeal is now closed and the money will be sent to Home Mission. Thank you all for your generosity.
3. The Leaders have now received 3 quotes for work on the Church roof. We are now looking carefully at the quotes with help from our regional minister Lee Johnson. Pray that the right choice will be made and work can start soon.
4. Look out for December diary sheet to be sent out soon for services and meetings in December.

Let's begin bringing our praise to God by reading this adaptation of Psalm 100 out loud.

**1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.**

*Bring your silence and your shouting, as introverts and extroverts.*

**2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

*Bring your songs and your stories, your struggles and your sacrifices.*

**3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

*He designed and created us, he understands us and is intensely interested in us.*

**4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

*Bring your gifts and your personalities, your strengths and weaknesses.*

**5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*He is just and wise, honest and true, caring and compassionate, eternal and holy; he is God.*

Dave Hopwood

Take a moment to reflect on any words or phrases that stand out to you, and bring them to our God, who knows and loves us individually. Then let's use this song to sing our praise and adoration.

Song: [King of kings](#)

That song starts with the line 'In the darkness we were waiting' and I feel like I have been in a state of 'waiting' quite a lot this year, and I have found that I am not all that good at waiting patiently or hopefully. But I want to offer the idea of 'waiting' as something for us to consider during this advent season as we wait to celebrate Jesus's birth and look forward to his second coming. These next couple of resources focus on this theme. Please reflect on them and spend time talking with God about them.

[The Waiting Room - YouTube](#) - This video is based on James 5:7-11. It begins with a light-hearted audio section, and then moves into images, Bible quotes and reflective questions.

Song: [We Wait With Great Expectancy - YouTube](#)

Advent Creed -

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.  
The one who is full of patience,  
who is not afraid of silence,  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,  
and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,  
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,  
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,  
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,  
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,  
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,  
whose silence overpowered their words,  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
sometimes arriving with obvious power,  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God  
who patiently waits for us,  
and who longs for us to do the same.

The writer of our next song, Keiko Ying, writes: 'When I first came across the verses where Christ warns the disciples of the coming darkness of the end times, I was overwhelmed with a sense of dread for the frightening chaos and suffering to come. But after more meditation, his words spoke to me even more powerfully about incredible comfort. Even now, as we experience heightened unrest and brokenness in many nations across the world, I know that our dear Lord is not surprised, nor has he lost control. Here is assurance, that even if I should live to see the sun refuse to shine or stars fall from the sky, he is closer than ever! Christ reminds me that these signs are only "labour pains" that indicate his imminent and glorious return when he comes to make all things right.'

Song: [Take heart](#)

Bolaji is leading us in our [prayers for the world](#).

Today's reading is from Matthew 1 vs 1-17  
You can [read it here](#) or [listen to it here](#).

Vincent brings us [today's message](#) - this is an audio file not a video

Take a few moments to reflect on what has been said today. Is there something that you need to consider or do? Please do get in touch with the leaders if you want to discuss or pray about something with them.

As we finish let's sing this song together.

Song: [Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus - Red Mountain Music - YouTube](#)

And let's say these words together, for ourselves, for each other, and for those we will be in contact with this week.

**God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace the dwells between us.**

**God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, the rock we stand a upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives always,  
and particularly this Advent time.  
Amen**