

Welcome to this **Advent 2 (The Prophets)**  
Sunday Communion Service



The online services are a combination the service sheet with links to Revd Steven, the hymns, music,

**Instructions:** [Ctrl-Click on the links in blue](#) to activate hymns and films as you read through the service. If an Error message comes up just wait and the link will start.

All the links on this online **service** can be seen on one playlist ctrl click link: [Advent 2 - YouTube](#)

**For the Zoom service, see notices at the end of this service sheet**

## *Welcome*

Welcome our 38<sup>th</sup> week of online services.

*Hymn 1:* Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBGx\\_4PxO3g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBGx_4PxO3g)

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

**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.**

*Lighting of the Advent Ring: by Revd Brigid*  
<https://youtu.be/LhrfM3gKE5Q>

We have this Advent Ring to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world:

*The second Candle is lit:*

We light this candle to help us to think of God's greatest promise, first told by the Prophets.



God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**

## Confession

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we  
have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour, in thought  
and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault. We are  
truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For  
the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who  
died for us, forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in  
newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## *Gloria*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUyZWHkuwzw>

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen**

### *The Collect*

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

### *Reading 1* Isaiah 40.1-11

#### **Comfort for God's people**

**40** Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
'In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,

every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out.'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

'All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of  
the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures for ever.'

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
he gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Song: Wait for the lord. Taize*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7GexlvX8HU>

*Reading 2* 2 Peter 3.8-15a

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:  
with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a  
thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not  
slow in keeping his promise, as some understand  
slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not  
wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come  
to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.  
The heavens will disappear with a roar; the  
elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth  
and everything done in it will be laid bare.



<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. <sup>15</sup> Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 2* On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plr21lLgFpg>

## *Gospel Reading* Mark 1.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to *Mark*.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **John the Baptist prepares the way**

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way' –

<sup>3</sup> 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."'

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of

whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon* from Revd Steven Poss

<https://youtu.be/n25AnStynwE>

### **Sermon – Change & Re-Set**

Today is the second Sunday of Advent where we remember the theme of peace and the person of John The Baptist, as we light the second candle on our Advent wreath.

John The Baptist is a unique figure, who comes out of nowhere with the introduction of Mark's Gospel which we hear today. Let us picture ourselves at the time and place when John bursts onto the scene proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As we hear John cry out to us, we are to recall the promises we made in our Baptism as we enter this new Christian year. This year has been one of a kind and our emotions have been all over the place. We haven't had the opportunity to be

together to encourage one another, worship together, embrace one another, pray with each other and minister together as we reach out to others with the love of Christ.

The prophet Isaiah continues to be included in our readings today, saying:-

3 "A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."

As we hear John The Baptist crying out to us, we are to make that change of mindset that repentance calls for and make our ways straight for the coming of our God at Christmas. This is the way that God comforts us as we hear from the prophet Isaiah. By making our peace with ourselves and with God, this sets us free to serve him as God calls us into the light of his kingdom. As we do this in the coming weeks in Advent, we may want to straighten out our emotions, the type of things we got stuck into during lockdown and re-set ourselves for holy conduct as our reading from Peter exhorts us, for the new year of 2021.

We are to be confessed, be forgiven, be repentant, changed, and ready for the Spirit of God to enter us and lay claim to us. Advent is about preparation, purification, and restoration of our lives and our world. In Hebrew it is called the work of tikkum olam, repairing the world. It is the true work of all believers. It is the concrete expression of how "justice walks before him".

This will give us much peace as we come to celebrate the birth of the Christ child at Christmas and seek to make those Baptism promises afresh of following our Lord, as our hopefully our country and world starts to open up again with the coming of the new vaccines.

On this second Sunday of Advent we are summoned by John the Baptist to remember our own baptisms and our commitments to the truth, to the Word of the Lord in the Scriptures, to our role as God's people who serve the poor in the work for justice with them, so that truly there is good news to proclaim from the highest places on earth, **Amen.**

In Baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

A journalist named Ann Medlock founded an award called "The Giraffe Project" to honor people who courageously spoke up on behalf of others and worked for justice, people who stuck their necks out on behalf of those who were being treated badly, unfairly. We need to look around us, see who should be given the Giraffe Award, encourage them in their work, and stand with them: people who work with immigrants caught in cold-hearted rules and systems that are intent

on keeping people out rather than welcoming them into this country; people who are advocates on behalf of children on the street, laboring in fields and factories, as prostitutes bought and sold in markets around the world; those who work for treaties banning land mines, nuclear weapons, poison gases, and pesticides ; those who work for the rights of farmworkers and those struggling in service industries at minimum wage. All these people in their daily lives and their dedication remember the dream of "kindness and truth meeting and justice and peace kissing, truth springing out of the earth while justice looks down from heaven". All of these people have a streak of the spirit of John the Baptizer in their souls and use their portion of spirit to prepare a way for God in our world.

There is a Chinese saying that can teach us in small ways how to remember this dream of justice and peace kissing: "Putting on clothes, remember the weaver's work; eating daily food, remember the farmer's toil. Guide the blind over the bridge and the lame one over the threshold." (Source Advent, Christmas and Epiphany – Megan McKenna).

**Amen**

*Hymn 3* Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_mJ9G60f6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_mJ9G60f6w)

*Profession of faith*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through  
faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

**Amen**



*Anthem:* "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oy2aCXpRRA&list=PLlfoEFWbpNsOt7ldVFIRErYPVDhu\\_-Ver](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oy2aCXpRRA&list=PLlfoEFWbpNsOt7ldVFIRErYPVDhu_-Ver)



## *Prayers of Intercession*

Intercessions: for 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Advent 2 by  
Roger Scurrall

*John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming  
of the Messiah by helping the people to realign  
their lives.*

As we gather expectantly in God's presence,  
let us pray.

God of cleansing and liberating power,  
give us the courage and perception  
to see ourselves as we really are,  
and repent of our sin; may the whole Church be  
cleansed and renewed.

Come, O come, Emmanuel:

**come and live in us.**

God of wisdom and truth,  
we pray for the world's leaders and all in  
authority, that they may lead and govern wisely  
and honestly, without corruption and for the  
common good. We pray for our Queen, for the

Government in making the right decisions with all that is going on at this time with COVID 19 and BREXIT. We pray for all Nations of the world and where there is conflict, we ask that you bring peace

Come, O come, Emmanuel:

**come and live in us.**

God of love and faithfulness,  
may every family be surrounded and upheld by your presence, the conflicts healed and needs provided for, and every act of kindness blessed. We pray for our Families at this time, especially those who we have not seen due to the restrictions on us with Covid 19. We bring before God those who are lonely at this time, who have not been able to see their loved ones and hope that in the new year life will be able to return to normal.

Come, O come, Emmanuel:

**come and live in us.**

God of wholeness, bring your reassurance and

healing, your hope and patience  
to all who are suffering in any way;  
bring freedom to all imprisoned by hate or guilt,  
and a change of heart to all who need to forgive.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body,  
mind or spirit, give them courage and hope in  
their troubles and bring them the joy of your  
salvation.

We especially bring before you Lord: -

Barry Jaycock

Molly Garwood

Matt Batt

Irene Johnson

Beryl Dixon

Sarah Maher

David Garlick

Tony Gibson

Jean Webber

Jean Winn

Andrew Jackson

Cally Thorpe

Josh Pitman

Sue Wilson

Georgia

Andy Smith

We also pray for the continuing recovery of Kath Bellingham.

We also pray for all those living and working at 'Down Hall' and 'The Swan' care homes, that the vaccine may soon be available and their loved ones may once again visit them.

Come, O come, Emmanuel:

**come and live in us.**

God of unending life,  
bring life in its fullness to us here,  
and to those who have completed their time on earth. May they know the freedom and joy of your heaven.

We remember Wendy Cole who passed away last weekend, we pray for David and all family and friends at this difficult time.

We pray for the family of Henry Rolph whose funeral service was held on the 3rd December.

Lord we also ask that you be with those whose Anniversary of their loved ones approaches and trust they will take comfort.

Come, O come, Emmanuel:

**come and live in us.**

God of warmth and brightness,  
we praise you for all our many blessings,  
and above all for coming to save us and set us free.

Merciful Father,

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

*Hymn 4* Long Ago, Prophets Knew

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S63rjDtYRYg>

*Revd Steven link;*

<https://youtu.be/n25AnStynwE>

### *The Peace*

May the peace of the Lord Jesus go with you,  
wherever He may take you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing in the wonders  
He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into  
our doors.

The Peace of our Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

### *The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all  
creation;

in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his  
friends

he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new  
covenant,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising  
in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear  
Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of  
heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.**



### *The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we  
pray



**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.**

### *Breaking of the Bread*

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### *Giving of Communion*

*The president and people receive communion.*

### *Prayer after communion*

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *Blessing*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon  
you, scatter the darkness from before your  
path, and make you ready to meet him when  
he comes in glory, and the blessing of God  
almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

***All* Amen.**

**Amen.**

### *Dismissal*

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**We go, giving thanks to God**

*Revd Steven link ends*

*Final Hymn* O come O come Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKu0or0t8Uw>

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*Final Music* 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'

(Come thou redeemer of the earth) by J. S. Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhpnkqsfmTs>

### *Notices*

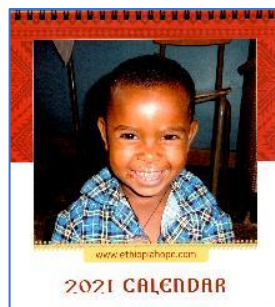
1. These **Online Services** will continue for those wanting to continue worshipping at home.  
(To view this service playlist, ctrl click below, come back to this sheet for the sermon and the prayers for today)

[Advent 2 - YouTube](#)

## Ethiopia Hope Calendars

<http://www.ethiopiahope.com/>

Mike and Angie have produced these 2021 calendars in aid of the charity we support at St Thomas'. If anyone would like a wall or desktop calendar for £3 each please contact **Theresa Reed on 776247** or Mike and Angie:



## Christmas Toy Present

Normally this time of the year we collect toys for the Salvation Army to distribute at Christmas to families going through difficult times. Last year our toys went to families in East London and were much appreciated.

If you would like to donate a toy, (with a piece of wrapping paper separate), please give them to the **Steven** or the **Churchwardens** for **Theresa Reed** to collect and take them to the Salvation Army.



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Advent 2**

**Amazon Smile**

If you shop on Amazon please use this link to use the Cemetery Gale bequest as your chosen charity!

[smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/210341-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/210341-0)

or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to Bradwell-On-Sea Parish Church, Gale Bequest Fund at no extra cost.

**Notices**

**St Paul's Cathedral Advent Carol Service**

[Advent Carol Service - YouTube](#)

**Pastoral Care Course**

If anyone is interested in joining a course on pastoral care, an online 10 week course via zoom, will begin in January. Please contact Revd Steven if you are interested.

**Spiritual Communion – Live via zoom at 9am on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Topic: Zoom Communion

Time: Dec 6, 2020 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87175366936?pwd=QUNKS2NPSm83TWtrYXRmOHg2UU5yQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 7536 6936

Passcode: 878926

**Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 27 and 28 / Time: Thursday December 10, 2020 07:30 PM London**  
**Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 27 and 28**  
**Time: Dec 10, 2020 07:30 PM London**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74213203527?pwd=cmlTZVRzNldjZmNGMHJGeXZ4TG1vdz09>

Meeting ID: 742 1320 3527

Passcode: 4imsUK

**Join Bishop Peter and contributors from across the diocese at 3 pm on Advent Sunday, 29th November 2020, for a special online service to launch Generous God, Generous Disciples.**

Find out more at [Chelmsford Diocese - YouTube](#)

**Recommended Books for Advent**

[The Coming of God - Maria Boulding](#)

[Haphazard by starlight - Janet Morley](#)

[Waiting on the Word - Malcolm Guite](#)

[Frequencies of God - Carys Walsh](#)

**Ten Ways To Celebrate Advent At Home**

[Ten ways to celebrate Advent at home | Pathways to God](#)

## **Christmas promotion**

The Message version of Isaiah 9:6 is: 'His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.' HOPE Together will be leading the [Church of England's online Advent](#) service on 6 December on this theme of wholeness and wellbeing as we introduce The Wellbeing Journey. Wellbeing is the subject of the moment and Dave Smith's new book '[God's Plan for You Wellbeing](#)' expertly tackles it from God's perspective; the Wellbeing Journey film series is based on the book. We're encouraging churches up and down the country to run The Wellbeing Journey online or in person from January, inviting all those who attend their Christmas services, both virtually and physically, to join them on this journey. The series can be used to run as a centralised group (Alpha-style) or in small groups or Sunday services, whether online or physically. The material is suitable for interested non-Christians and would make a great introduction to your church. Find out more at [wellbeingjourney.org](http://wellbeingjourney.org) and sign up to be notified when all the resources are ready.