

Thursday Morning Prayer | Advent

Bell x3

Gathering: (sung)

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 that 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 upon, **be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.**

Confession:

You move us to delight in praising You; for You have made us for Yourself,
And our hearts are restless until they rest in You. (St. Augustine)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

In silence let us confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

The Psalm:

... at the end of the Psalm: **Glory to you Source of All Being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Gospel:

Bell | Silence | Bell | Sharing

Our Intercessions:

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Redeemer, saying "Lord Jesus, come soon."

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Lord, head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**
 O Branch of Jesse, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**
 O Key of David, sceptre of Israel's house, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**
 O Morning Star, splendour of eternal light and Sun of righteousness: come enlighten all who dwell in the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**
 O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: come and save the creatures you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**
 O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

We offer our prayers before God and one another...

God of Mary, Son of Mary; Neither birth nor death diminished you. Neither power nor pain destroyed you. Neither plenty nor little distracted you.
**So lift up our arms in strength so that we may lay down
 our arms and our armies, our fears and our prejudices.
 Because, with Mary, we know that the silenced have words to speak Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Blessing | Sending

We take the light of our prayer into the world
To pray for those unable to pray, to offer ourselves as answers to prayer.
 We take the light of our compassion into the world:
To come alongside those who are suffering anguish of heart, anguish of mind, and be as Christ for them.
 We take the light of God's power into the world:
God's power made perfect in powerlessness, strength made known in weakness, life made known in dying.
 God enters the hearts of all who pray - and feel they are not heard - suffers their pain - their humiliation - carries the burdens of the world and dies that we might live
 May our God bless us
Source of all Being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.
 And until we meet again
May we be held in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

Bell x3