

# Worship at Home

## The Second Sunday before Advent

### Led by the Anglican Communion

#### WELCOME

*Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion offers a brief word of welcome from the main door of Lambeth Palace*

Good morning. My name is Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon and I am the Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion; it is my pleasure to welcome you to Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for our worship this morning, which celebrates the joy of connectedness of the Anglican Communion, a family of churches in more than 165 countries. Many in the Communion had hoped to be meeting back in August for the Lambeth Conference, which sadly couldn't happen this year due to the global health pandemic; however, we are looking forward to seeing one another at the rearranged conference in 2022.

Lambeth Palace itself plays a part in the rich history of the Anglican Communion; from the Chapel here, bishops have been sent out to minister across the Communion.

*The rest of the service comes from the Lambeth Palace Chapel*

*The Rt Rev Anthony Poggo says:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

**All and also with you.**

Good morning, I am Anthony Poggo and I work here at Lambeth Palace as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs; before this I was Bishop of Kajo-Keji in South Sudan. Our service today will tell us about friendships that cross continents and how communities in different parts of the world support one another in hard times and share in one another's joys in good times. The Anglican Communion has close links to Lambeth Palace; in the study above me, Archbishop Cranmer compiled the Book of Common Prayer, which still forms the basis of all our worship in the Anglican Church today. In the various chairs and stalls we use in this Chapel there are beautiful enamel plaques representing most of the different provinces in the Anglican Communion, a visual reminder of our sisters and brothers around the world, some of whom we will be hearing from during this service today.

Our preacher for this service is Sheran Harper, President of the Mothers Union, an organisation present in 84 countries around the world. We will also hear from the Women on the Frontline project and about companion link Dioceses across the Communion.

Let us start by singing together the hymn Siyahamba, We Are Walking in the Light of God.

## HYMN

Siyahamba, We Are Walking in the Light of God

*Recorded in 2017 in St John's College, Johannesburg, South Africa, and sung by the school choir  
joined by St Martin's Voices from St Martin-in-the-Fields in London*

*We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*In the light of God*

*We are marching, marching, marching ...ooh  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*The light of God*

*We are marching, marching, marching ...ooh  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*In the light of God*

*We are marching, marching, marching ...ooh  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*The light of God*

*We are marching, marching, marching ...ooh  
We are marching in the light of God.*

*Words: African folk song, written down by Andries Van Tonder  
Tune: Walking in the light*

### *The president says*

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.

### *Silence is kept*

**All** Let us return to the Lord and say,  
**Lord our God,**  
**in our sin we have avoided your call.**  
**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**  
**like the dew that goes away early.**  
**Have mercy on us;**  
**deliver us from judgement;**  
**bind up our wounds and revive us;**  
**in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**All:** Amen.

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **FIRST REFLECTION**

*Companion links with the Diocese of Leicester*

*Rev Michael Broadly*

### **MUSIC**

Nada te turbe

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

*Let nothing trouble you, let nothing scare you*  
*He who loves God, needs nothing*  
*Let nothing trouble you, let nothing scare you*  
*Only God is enough.*

*Words and Music from Taizé*

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Mr Jeroham Melendez (read in Spanish)*

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians. (5.1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND REFLECTION**

*Conversation about women on the Frontline with Caroline Welby and Jane Namurye, Coordinator for Women on The Frontline*

## **HYMN**

In Christ there is no East or West

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord,  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, children of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
who serves my Father as his child  
is surely kin to me.

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

*Words: William Arthur Dunkerley (John Oxenham) (1852-1941)*

*Tune: Kilmarnock*

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Read in Arabic by the Very Rev. Dr. Hosam Naoum, Bishop in the Diocese of Jerusalem*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew. (25.14-30)

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All**     **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

*Sheran Harper, president of the Mothers' Union*

Let us affirm our faith.

**All**     **Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**

## HYMN

Christ is made the sure foundation

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone,  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
Binding all the church in one,  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
And her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
With thy wonted loving-kindness  
Hear thy servants as they pray;  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls away.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
Laud and honour to the Son,  
Laud and honour to the Spirit,  
Ever Three, and ever One,  
One in might, and one in glory,  
While unending ages run.

*Words: Anonymous Latin translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)*

*Music: Dale Wood*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Led by Canon John Kafwanka, Director of Mission, Anglican Communion Office*

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety.

**Response:**

Lord hear us  
**All: Lord graciously hear us**

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

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Said in different languages)*

**All:** 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 those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory, are yours  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

We thank God for the variety of worshippers across the Anglican Communion and their work and witness every day.

*The Secretary-General prays*

May the blessing of God the Father,  
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;  
of God the Son who bought us for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity,  
be with us and remain with us always.

**All:** Amen.

## HYMN

Let all the world

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
My God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
His praise may thither fly;  
The earth is not too low,  
His praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing:  
My God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout,  
No door can keep them out;  
But above all, the heart  
Must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing:  
My God and King!

Words: George Herbert (1593–1633)  
Tune: Luckington

### **Acknowledgments**

*Service led by Rt Revd Anthony Poggo.*

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*British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Esther Rose Bevan.*

*Music performed by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis.*

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*Bible readings accessed from <https://bible.oremus.org/> (New Revised Standard Version).*