



Worship at Home for the First Sunday of Advent with St Martin-in-the-Fields

WELCOME

Rev Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields

ADVENT PROSE

Pour down, O heavens, from above

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

*Pour down, O heavens, from above,
And let the skies rain down righteousness.*

*Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord,
And remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert,
Zion a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation,
Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.*

*Pour down, O heavens, from above,
And let the skies rain down righteousness.*

Music: Plainsong

The officiant says, during which the first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit

In the name of God, who in Christ turns judgement into mercy, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

All Amen

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
We turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
forgive our divisions and discord.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
forgive our selfishness and pride.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
forgive the ways we are unprepared.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
You are God's children.

**All Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN

O Come, O come, Emmanuel

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

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.*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient Law.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, desire of nations, show
Thy kingly reign on earth below.
Though cornerstone uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Words: Latin 13th century

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Read by Christian Saguyan

A reader says

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (40.1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
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.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, and do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

TESTIMONY

'Hope in Waiting'

Given by Lenus Walker

ANTHEM

Wait for the Lord – Taizé

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make a straight path for God.

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always:

God is at hand.

Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.

Words and Music by the Taizé Community

TESTIMONY

'The journey through Advent'

Given by Beverley Logan

THE GOSPEL

Read by Nicola Collett

A reading from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 13

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken'.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory.
Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

ANTHEM

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

*Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
The Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come.*

*Sing Holy, Holy Lord
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon.*

*E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!*

*Words: Revelation 22 adapted by Ruth Manz
Music: Paul Manz*

SERMON

*Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields
'Speak Tenderly' (Isaiah 40.1-11)*

HYMN

Like a candle flame

Sung by the choral scholars of St Martin-In-the-fields

Like a candle flame

Flickering small in our darkness

Uncreated light

Shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia (Men)

God is with us, alleluia (Women)

Come to save us, alleluia (Men)

Come to save us (Women)

Alleluia! (All)

Stars and angels sing

Yet the earth sleeps in shadows

Can this tiny spark

Set a world on fire?

God is with us, alleluia (Men)

God is with us, alleluia (Women)

Come to save us, alleluia (Men)

Come to save us (Women)

Alleluia! (All)

Yet his light shall shine

From our lives, Spirit blazing

As we touch the flame

Of his holy fire

God is with us, alleluia (Men)

God is with us, alleluia (Women)

Come to save us, alleluia (Men)

Come to save us (Women)

Alleluia! (All)

God is with us, alleluia (Men)

God is with us, alleluia (Women)

Come to save us, alleluia (Men)

Come to save us (Women)

Alleluia! (All)

*Words and Music: Graham Kendrick arr. David Ogden,
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The prayers:

Let us pray.

Tender God, be close to all who spend their lives in the midst of hurt and damage. Transform all who struggle with guilt and regret. Give them a new story, the way you gave a new story to Israel in Babylon. Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

Taizé chant 'Lord Jesus Christ'

Generous God, walk with any who feel they have an impossible journey ahead. Lift up every valley. Make low every mountain and hill. Level the uneven ground. Make the rough places a plain. And take them home. Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

Taizé chant 'Lord Jesus Christ'

Restoring God, empower those whose flesh is weak. Visit any who fear they are like withered grass or faded flowers. By your word that lasts forever, uphold your children in places of weariness and failure. Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

Taizé chant 'Lord Jesus Christ'

Intimate God, meet us in the details and moments of our lives. Like a shepherd, gather us in your arms and carry us in your heart, 'til you have brought us to the place where sorrow and sighing reign no more. Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

Taizé chant 'Lord Jesus Christ'

Silence is kept.

The officiant prays

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own first language,

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and all those whom you love,
this Advent, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Those dear tokens of his Passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
with what rapture
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, come, now our Lord!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John Cennick (1718-1755)

Tune: Helmsley

Acknowledgments

Service led by Rev Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Preacher, Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields. With thanks to Christian Saguyan, Nicola Collett, Lenus Walker, Beverley Logan.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Esther Rose Bevan.

Music sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Directed by Andrew Earis, Organist, Ben Giddens.

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