



## Worship at Home: The Fourth Sunday of Advent with Marie Curie

*The officiant, the Revd Kate Bottley says*

All We meet in the name of God,  
who knows our needs,  
hears our cries,  
feels our pain,  
and heals our wounds.

*The officiant says*

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.  
Lord, have mercy.  
All Lord, have mercy.

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.  
Christ, have mercy.  
All Christ, have mercy.

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.  
Lord, have mercy.  
All Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
All Amen.

*Whilst lighting the fourth candle of an Advent Wreath (the other three being alight):*

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**All**    **Amen.**

## **CAROL**

The truth from above

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

This is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from your door,  
but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
is that God did man create;  
the next thing which to you I'll tell:  
woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run  
that you'd redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear;  
he here did live, and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Trad. arr. Michael Cayton  
Words: English folk carol*

## **REFLECTION**

*Given by Helen Nicell, Marie Curie campaigner*

## **HYMN**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Tune: Cross of Jesus (John Stainer)*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Read by Matthew Reed, Chief Executive, Marie Curie*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. (43.1-7)

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

*Clive Pryce, Gloucester, sharing life experience*

## ANTHEM

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came**

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

'For known a blessèd mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady.  
Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
'Most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

*Birjina gastettobat zegoen*  
*Basque Carol, Charles Bordes (Collector) (1863-1909), Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

## REFLECTIONS

*Rev Dorothy Moore Brooks, Chaplain, Great Ormond Street Hospital & Rev Juliet Stephenson,  
Director, The Good Funeral Company*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Rev Juliet Stephenson, Director, The Good Funeral Company*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. (1-26-38)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man, Whose name was Joseph of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O, favoured one, "the Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at this saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God, and behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus. He shall be great, and he will be the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father, David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born, will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your relative Elizabeth, in her old age, has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her, she who was called barren, for nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**    **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Welcome and Life Events*

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All**    **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.**

## PRAYERS

*Led by Julie Pearce, Chief Nurse, Marie Curie*

Let us pray for the world God loves. Dear Lord, in our uncertain world, we bring before you our concerns. We are worried about our world with the evidence of so much cruelty and greed. We pray that you will move among the nations so that the barriers of fear, suspicion and hatred may crumble and that people may be united in the bonds of justice, and peace. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they may gain wisdom, to understand the important issues of our time. Help them to have courage to uphold what they believe to be just and right. We pray that you would give strength and wisdom to the church throughout the world in sharing the Good News of your love with others.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, you have commanded us to love one another and to serve each other's needs. Help us in our homes and in our lives, to be helpful and considerate, forbearing and forgiving, so that family life and daily living may be strengthened and sustained. We pray especially for children and those who care for them, that they will be loved and protected. We remember those families who are caught in financial difficulties, those who face unemployment and hardship. May they know that you love and care for them.

Lord in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for those who are ill, especially those known to us. We ask that your tender mercy will reach them and fill their lives with your peace and healing grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, and other health and social care professionals. We pray for all the Marie Curie staff who are caring for people every day in our hospices and in people's homes. We pray for family members who are carers, that they may gain the strength and courage to continue to care during difficult times. May they too know your love and care.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for people who are living their last weeks and days of life on earth. May they know that you are with them, and give them the courage and faith to trust in you. We remember before God, those who have died and we pray for those who have been bereaved. You turn our darkness into light. In your light shall we see light.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, keep us close to you as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child this Christmas. And bless us with your peace.

**All Amen.**

## ANTHEM

Jesus remember me

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*Words and Music from the Taizé Community*

*Silence is kept.*

*The officiant prays*

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**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,**  
**now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*The officiant offers some brief concluding words, then says,*

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always.

**All Amen.**

## CAROL

### It came upon the midnight clear

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
from heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)*

*Tune: Noel (Sullivan)*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Service led by Rev Kate Bottley, Broadcaster.*

*With thanks to Canon Sandra Millar, Head of Welcome and Life Events , Clive Pryce, Rev Dorothy Moore Brooks, Chaplain, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Rev Juliet Stephenson, Director, The Good Funeral Company.*

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

*BSL Interpretation by Naomi Barry.*

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