



NOTICES



* **We're back online!**

Due to the two-week lockdown, there will be no in-person Church services on Sunday 29th November and 6th December. However, we will be 'meeting online!' Services for Sunday 29th November and 6th December will be available via our usual platforms.

Our Advent Series will also look a little different! We will close our Advent Series in Ballyclug 'in-person' on Wednesday 16th December. On Wednesday 2nd and 9th December our Advent services will be made available online.

* **Ballymena Church Members Forum Advent Reflections**

Hopefully you saw Ballymena Parish's contribution to BCMF Thursday Advent Reflections on our Facebook and YouTube pages. These Thursday Advent Reflections are a longstanding tradition in the town and one which we always enjoy taking part in! Due to current Covid restrictions this year's reflections will be broadcast online. Keep up to date and take part in the reflections during Thursday lunchtimes via Facebook and YouTube.

* **Parish Administrator**

The Parish of Kilconriola And Ballyclug Seeks applications for the position of Parish Administrator.(Initially 12 hours per week with potential to increase to 18-20 hours p.w.). Please see our website for more details. The deadline for applications is 30th November.

* **Prayer Teams for November and December**

November

29th Irene Thompson – 25641834

December

6th Millicent McClelland – 07791736117

13th Adelaide Nimick – 25460865

* **Christmas Callers**

Each and every one of us can expect to find Christmas a little different this year... We would love to continue to support and encourage those who need friendship and fellowship over the Christmas season with a team of Christmas telephone callers! If you would to join the team, receive calls from a friendly voice this Christmas or know someone in the Parish who would, please contact Canon Mark or Rev Emma. Please note: due to data protection

we need verbal consent from those who wish to receive calls over the Christmas period.

* **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal**

Ballymena Salvation Army are now accepting vouchers and toys for the Christmas Toy Appeal. Toys can be donated, however, due to COVID restrictions vouchers would be preferable. Donations can be made on Wednesdays 10am-1pm at the Salvation Army shop on Broughshane Street. Please get involved and help out families in need this Christmas!

* **Please pray ...**

- Pray for one another as week one of lockdown continues.
- Pray for our frontline and emergency services.
- Pray for those currently in hospital, those in nursing homes and sheltered accommodation and for those being cared for in the community.
- Praise God for the potential of Covid vaccines and pray for all those involved in researching cures for other devastating diseases and illnesses.
- Continue to pray for the Executive, our Health Minister and for all those in authority.
- Pray for those areas of the world suffering from Covid-19 and don't have the resources and medical facilities that we are blessed with.
- Ask and seek God for peace in our community, our nation and in our world.

Sunday Morning Worship

29th November 2020

The First Sunday of Advent



*"Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him."
Revelation 1:7*

Opening Prayer

Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.
Enter into our darkness with Your Light.
Come fill our emptiness with Your Presence.
Dispel the clouds and reveal Your Glory.
Come afresh, renew and restore us.
Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Lighting of the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,

you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world. *Amen.*

Opening Worship – Here I am to Worship/Light of the World

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Confession BCP.p.102

*A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So
let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith. John 1.23.*

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;
by what we have done
and by what we have failed to do.
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.*

Absolution BCP.p.102

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

Family Talk

The Apostle's Creed BCP p. 112

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Bible Reading

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Living Word. We pray that in the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would open our hearts and minds to the truth. Open our ears to hear Your voice speaking to us. May we grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus today. Feed our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving we pray. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*

Sermon

Collect of the Day BCP p.241

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.. *Amen.*

Prayers and Intercessions

In our prayers and intercessions this morning the response to 'Lord, stir up Your strength' is **'and come among us.'**

'Lord, stir up Your strength'
'and come among us.'

Come, Lord, be known in Your Church;
for without You we have no message, we have no power.
Come fill us with Your presence,
that we may proclaim Your peace.

Lord, make us aware, alert to Your coming,
that we may reveal Your glory in all the world.

We pray for those that walk in darkness,
that they may see Your light.

We remember those whose lives are clouded with troubles,
and pray that they may behold Your glory.

We pray especially for those suffering from Covid-19, those who have been bereaved during this difficult year and for all of us carrying on through this short shutdown.

'Lord, stir up Your strength' **'and come among us.'**

Come, Lord, and give peace to Your world.

Disperse the clouds of war and violence, of calamity and disaster,
of sickness and disease.

Let Your power and Your glory be revealed to the nations.

We pray for all who protect and treat us:

for our precious NHS staff; police and emergency services;

for care home staff and those who care in the community,

and for all key workers who continue to work for the good of the whole community.

'Lord, stir up Your strength' **'and come among us.'**

Come, Lord, be known in our homes,
that our homes may reflect Your love.

Come in our places of work, whether we are working from home or in our usual workplace, that they may reflect Your glory;

that we may rejoice in each other's presence,

that we may be fully aware of others and sensitive to their needs.

'Lord, stir up Your strength' **'and come among us.'**

Come, Lord, to all who are struggling to cope at this time;

to all who are weighed down with troubles.
We pray for the ill and for those who have cared for them.
We remember and pray for friends and loved one in their troubles...
We take a moment to pray for them now. . .

'Lord, stir up Your strength' **'and come among us.'**

Lord, we thank You that You have come; that You have sent
Your Son Jesus Christ to meet us in our need.
We praise You Lord God for Your infinite love and mercy.
We thank You for that offer of peace which passes all understanding;
peace which this world cannot give.
Be in our hearts and minds this morning and in this Advent season.
May our hearts be firmly fixed on You, Your Son and on the things of the Spirit.

'Lord, stir up Your strength' **'and come among us.'** *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 112

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.

Closing Worship – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

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

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide Thy Heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

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

Closing Prayer and Blessing

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

...and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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