

**Compiled by Mr Colin Webber**

*In the beginning was the Word - spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.*

*Listen and hear - God's promise is true!*

*The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.*

*Eternal and near at hand, already and not yet, God's promise is the foundation of all life.*

*Listen! Hear the covenant anew, giving voice to a future with hope.*

**HYMN**

I cannot tell why he whom angels worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iecEqLmozrk>

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH & CONFESSION**

As we begin our Advent journey of adventure, may we not be so eager to reach Bethlehem that we fail to see the fuller picture of a God who has been with us throughout history, and appears in the people we meet ...

Emmanuel, God with us, we look for the signs of your coming, yet we fail to see you in the unexpected places and in unexpected people. **Forgive us** when we dismiss those with whom we don't agree: people in whose presence we feel uneasy, those who challenge us to think differently, people whose values and lifestyle are strange to us, for you are to be found in diversity. **Forgive us** when we fail to see you in the unexpected places: sitting in the back street and no-go areas, in places of deprivation and hopelessness, war zones and areas of uneasy peace, refugee camps and holding areas. **Forgive us** when we fail to see you in the everyday places: in boardrooms and on factory floors, in newspaper offices and parliamentary benches, in post office queues and job centres, in shops and offices. Emmanuel, God with us, help us to spot the signs of your kingdom. **Amen.**

**READINGS: Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36**

Scattered through the Book of Jeremiah, with all its harsh prophecies, are a number of passages that offer a different perspective, filled with hope and confidence in God. At the heart of this hope lies God's promise of an everlasting covenant, sometimes the new, heart-written covenant (31.31-33), sometimes the old covenant with David renewed (33.21). This passage reminds us that the covenant relationship is carried on beyond David by his righteous descendant, and stresses that he comes as judge. God's faithful people will be saved through the action of God's chosen one, who will re-establish the covenant by bringing about justice and righteousness in the land. But where there is justice, there is also condemnation of injustice. It is on the basis of this judgement that the land finds safety and salvation, through God's re-established covenant, as unshakeable as the alternation of day and night (v.20), which also reflects God's covenant love for his creation.

**HYMN(S)**

Longing for light (Christ be our light)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04uIOM>

Sing Hosanna!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUd0VwMvCiU>

## REFLECTION

The Advent lectionary readings prompt us to reflect on our lives so that, when we hear again Luke's familiar story, we may realise afresh the significance of the birth of Jesus. In the stable, the kingdom of God draws near, marking a significant moment in the Big Story of God's relationship with his creation. Its familiarity may mean that we overlook God's love active in the world, but today we are challenged to notice the signs.

The signs paint a picture of impending doom. Jesus may have perceived the threat that resulted in the sack of Jerusalem by the Romans, but Luke is writing after this event and during a period of persecution of the young Church. Maybe, for Luke, these are signs of the coming of the end and the return of the Son of Man. However, nearly 2,000 years have passed and, although there are, even today, those who use these words to predict the end, we may be wiser to recognise that every generation could point to such signs of impending doom and ask whether God is active and the kingdom near.

Street signs are everywhere and we know how to read them, even in a foreign country. We still look for a 'red sky at night', for the first snowdrops in spring, and we expect a hard winter if there are lots of berries. So how are we to handle the turbulence of life as a sign of the kingdom? Perhaps it encourages us to recognise the nature of unredeemed humanity, always susceptible to what is going on around us; always getting things wrong.

Jesus seems to indicate more positive signs of redemption, of the nearness of the kingdom. For his contemporaries, it was, surely, the fulfilment of God's promise, prophesied in passages like the one from Jeremiah, and now seen in his own life and ministry. For Luke's readers, there was the knowledge of what God had done in Christ and the living witness of the infant Church. What of us today? Could it be that we are to hold on to this and be the hopeful sign of the kingdom for others?

**Look for signs of Christmas getting closer. Each time you see one, make an effort to think of God's kingdom coming in Jesus and how you can point other people to the real meaning of Christmas.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God, you entered the world as a human baby at a difficult time. We pray for those in difficult circumstances, those for whom the picture is bleak: those waiting in hope for justice, those in the darkness of poverty, those who must walk for clean water.

**Lord, inspire us, and make us signs of your kingdom.**

We pray for those who live in fear and foreboding under the tyranny of modern-day Herods; for those who are weighed down with dissipation and the worries of this life. Give us the courage to support them through protest and prayer.

**Lord, inspire us, and make us signs of your kingdom.**

We pray for those who show where God is to be found: those who offer friendship at bus stops and, in the playgrounds, in the counselling rooms and on telephone help lines, those who work to bring peace and restore hope.

**Lord, inspire us, and make us signs of your kingdom. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q\\_Q-4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4)

Advent God, your creation inspires our journey; your Son is the life-map we follow; your Spirit the light we travel by. May the Trinity of all three surround and protect us.

*Selected material from Roots resources*

**Circuit Weekly Service Calendar - Week Commencing: Sunday 28th November 2021**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	9.00am	In Presence	Alconbury	Rev James Bamber HC
	10.30am	In Presence	Berkley Street	Rev Heather Walker
	10.00am	In Presence	Brampton	Rev Sue Baker-Maher
	10.30am	In Presence	Buckden	Ms Vivien Almond
	10.30am	In Presence	Great Barford	Rev James Bamber HC
	10.00am	Zoom	Hilton LA	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/92378310002">https://zoom.us/j/92378310002</a> Meeting ID: 923 7831 0002
	10.30am	In Presence	Huntingdon	Mr Colin Webber
	7.00pm		Over	Refuel <a href="https://zoom.us/j/83299010009">https://zoom.us/j/83299010009</a> Meeting ID: 832 9901 0009
	10.30am	In Presence	Ramsey	Rev Dawn Colley
	10.30am	In Presence & Zoom	Sawtry	Mr Don Moorman <a href="https://zoom.us/j/172859764">https://zoom.us/j/172859764</a> Meeting ID: 172 859 764 Dial-in number: 0203 481 5240
	10.30am	In Presence	St. Ives	Rev Nick Witham HC
	7.00pm		Warboys	Refuel <a href="https://zoom.us/j/83299010009">https://zoom.us/j/83299010009</a> Meeting ID: 832 9901 0009
	10.00am	Livestream Zoom	Hilton Circuit	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/92378310002">https://zoom.us/j/92378310002</a> Meeting ID: 923 7831 0002
<b>Monday to Weds</b>	8.30am	Online Live	Zoom Morning Prayers	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/91251506508">https://zoom.us/j/91251506508</a> Meeting ID: 912 5150 6508
<b>Weds</b>	2.00pm	Online Live	Zoom Berkley Street	Afternoon Tea - Margaret Wilson <a href="https://zoom.us/j/89206584600">https://zoom.us/j/89206584600</a> Meeting ID: 892 0658 4600
<b>Thurs</b>	7.00pm		Zoom Praise	Sing along - all welcome Margaret Wilson <a href="https://zoom.us/j/85653152565">https://zoom.us/j/85653152565</a> Meeting ID: 856 5315 2565
<b>Friday</b>	7.30pm		Zoom Lectio Divina  Telephone	Rev Sue Baker-Maher <a href="https://zoom.us/j/82995322148">https://zoom.us/j/82995322148</a> Meeting ID: 829 9532 2148 0131 460 1196; 0203 051 2874; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240

## Notices

This week, the church congregation and Minister highlighted for prayer is **Ramsey**



### **WAVE for Change - developing mixed ability meeting space and worship.**

Some of you may have heard of Wave for Change, a group formed by two women with children with learning disabilities who have established spaces and places where mixed ability friendships could form. WAVE now boasts WAVE Church, WAVE Club, the Challenge Group for parents adjusting to the birth of a child with additional needs and WAVE Pop Up Cafe. WAVE has been featured on Women's Hour, Songs of Praise and last year the founder's Bernice and Celia received the Archbishop of Canterbury's prestigious Langton Award for Community Service. You can find out more about WAVE here: -

<https://www.wave-for-change.org.uk>

The founders have agreed to bring the team up to our Circuit in the new year with a view to sharing their experience and talking about WAVE.

Sue will be coordinating an event early in Feb and would like to hear from people across our churches who have children with learning disabilities who might be interested in helping to plan this event and publicise it to families within our communities. If this is you, please get in touch directly with Sue ([sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk)) as soon as possible with a view to a Zoom meeting early in December.

Thank you, Rev Sue

## **Advent Bible Studies**

Please note that the 3 Advent Bible Studies in any given week will all be the same. Whilst you don't have to join at the same time each week, you are advised to join only one Advent Bible Study per week. In the coming week, Rev Nick will be leading our advent Bible Studies.

Rev Nick Witham - Heading For The Hill

**Mon 29/11 at 2.30/14.30**

**Wed 1/12 at 19.30**

**Fri 3/12 at 19.30**

St Ives MC have 20 grey plastic children's stacking chairs needing a new home. They will deliver to any church or school or children's club within the circuit boundaries.

Please contact a steward at St Ives, if you know of anyone who would like them.

If you missed Rev James Bamber's interview on the radio, it is now available to listen to either on the circuit website, or the circuit facebook page.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1733BCrV9wLd5cEYULkViBPpTJuWiFVro/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1733BCrV9wLd5cEYULkViBPpTJuWiFVro/view?usp=drive_web)

Just to say I have listened to it, it is well worth listening to!