

Fourth Sunday in Advent

22nd December 2024

Led by Laurence Wareing & Fiona Bennett



*Winter Solstice
Jan Richardson*

Welcome & Gathering

Call to worship:

One: Waiting for Peace

ALL: We look to God's Promise

One: Waiting for Hope

ALL: We seek for God's Saviour

One: Waiting for Love

ALL: We work with God's Spirit

ALL: Holy Three-in-One we gather to worship you.

Hymn: See! In yonder manger low CH4 313

See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,
See the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.
Hail, O ever-blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, O ever-blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this.
Hail, O ever-blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Edward Caswall, public domain

Prayer

One: By day and by night,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

One: In our strength & fragility,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

One: In our hope & fear,

ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

We unite our prayers together in the Jesus prayer or Lord's prayer...

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of all,

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of

Justice and Love

sustain our hope

and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory

of the power that is love,

now and forever. Amen.

4th Candle

One: This is a candle for Love.

We light this candle for all God-bearers,

Saying Yes! to God's challenge,

Accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

ALL: GOD AS WE WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE

GIVE LIGHT, GIVE LOVE.

Hymn: Hope is CH4 284

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,

never consumed, though it burns through the years;

dim in the daylight of power and privilege —

when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,

threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.

Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows —

violence and force their dead-end course.

Faith is a candle of trusting and waiting,

Sharing the story passed down through the years.

Trusting the message that new life is coming;

In place of despair, light will shine there.

Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,

where every face is the face of a friend.

Widen the circle by sharing and giving —
God's holy dare: love everywhere.

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Reading: Luke 1:39-56

39In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." 46And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, 48for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." 56And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

God's Story in Pictures - Introduction

Hymn: Tell out my soul CH4 286

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of the Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Name!
Make known God's might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of the Word!
Firm is God's promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Tune: WOODLANDS by Walter Greatorex (1877-1949). Text: 'Tell out, my soul' by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926). © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740884 & CCLI License 1133487 & 103516. All rights reserved.

Christmas Hope in pictures from around the world

RESPONSE

Hymn: When out of Poverty is born CH4 291

When out of poverty is born
a dream that will not die
a landless, weary folk find strength
to stand with heads held high,
it's then we learn from those who wait
to greet the promised day:
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart
Be blest: prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,
forget to share their bread,
they find their wealth an empty thing,
their spirits are not fed.
For only just and tender love
the hungry soul will stay.
And so God's prophets echo still:
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,
the world turned upside down,
and in the strength of women's faith
the Word of Life was born.
She knew that God would raise the low,
it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call:
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

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Prayers of the People

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711*

Notices

Hymn: Hark! The herald angels sing CH4 301

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more shall die,
born to raise the ones of earth,
born to give us second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788), public domain

Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 22 nd Dec	11am	AUC and Online	Laurence is leading and Fiona is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 22 nd Dec	12 noon	Online	
Service of the Longest Night	Sun 22 nd Dec	1pm	AUC	An Advent space to remember those we miss and grieve. Open to all.
Christmas Day Celebration Service	Weds 25 th Dec	10.30am	AUC and Online	All age worship celebration service followed by Christmas punch and chat.
Post Service Zoom Social	Weds 25 th Dec	12 noon	Online	
Sunday Worship	Sun 29 th Dec			Fiona is leading and Helen M. Mee is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 29 th Dec	12 noon	Online	
Our Tribe Coffee Social	Sun 29 th Dec	1.30pm	Coffee Saints, 2A Little King Street, EH1 3AR	All welcome!

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196