

St. John's Parish Church, Ben Rhydding

CELTIC COMMUNION SERVICE

29TH NOVEMBER 2020

(Advent)

On-Line Version

* *Links are included for the sermon and songs below*

Feel free to use this in your own way.

However, if you would like to make a point of going through this material on Sunday at 10 am, then that would add to our sense of community and joint worship.

This morning we hope to do the whole service on Zoom@10 so please stay with us if you'd like to. Click the following link to join us from 9:45 onwards:

[**Sunday AM Zoom Meeting**](#)

INTRODUCTION

OPENING RESPONSES

Great God, your love is higher than the heavens,

Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, your Name be praised,

And let your glory be over all the earth.

The Lord is here,

He welcomes us now.

WE LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

THE COLLECT

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. Amen

Hymn 1: **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*

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
Who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go

Rejoice...

O come the branch of Jesse's free
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust your mighty pow'r to save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice...

O come O king of David come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to miser!

Rejoice...

O come Desire of nations bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
O bid our sad divisions cease
And be Yourself our King of Peace

Rejoice...

GATHERING

Into the warmth of your presence Lord we come,

With the offerings of our praise, our worship, our prayers and our lives.

Into the warmth of your presence Lord we come,

Freed from the distractions of the world, free to meditate on your word.

Into the warmth of your presence Lord we come,

To be blessed by the depth of your love and the warmth of this fellowship.

Here, your Spirit is with us,
listening, prompting, touching lives, healing.

Renewing, making us whole.
Come – meet us now.

CONFESSION:

In your eyes, Father all are loved,
created in your image,
a part of your purpose, of equal worth.

Forgive us that we have divided this world
Into the 'have' and 'have-nots'. Into the rich and the poor, the 'in crowd' and the outcasts. `Us` and `them`.

Forgive our insensitivity, our selfishness, our greed and pride.
Help us to see others always through your eyes.
Lord, forgive us; help us to change.

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:
`Don't be afraid, your sins are forgiven.
I love you, come and follow me.`
Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 9: 2 & 6-7**

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Hymn 2: **Like a Candle Flame**

Like a candle flame
Flick'ring small
In our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

*God is with us Alleluia
Come to save us Alleluia
Alleluia*

Stars and angels sing
Yet the earth
Sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire

Chorus..

Yet His light shall shine
From our lives
Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame
Of His holy fire

Chorus...

Graham Kendrick

GOSPEL READING: **John 8:12**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

TALK

INTERCESSIONS

We pray together:

Circle us, Lord.

**Circle us with the light of your presence,
bright within this dark world.**

Guard and guide us, together with our family and friends,
that we may live in your light.....

Circle us, Lord.

Circle our nation with Advent love and hope,
that Jesus may be lifted high.

Bring wisdom, grace and integrity to our national life
that we may see your kingdom come.....

Circle us, Lord.

**Circle our world with grace and justice,
that your Spirit may bring real life,**

and all nations and creatures live together in peace and plenty,
and praise your Name together. Amen.

Hymn 3: Come thou long expected Jesus

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 forever,
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.

At the beginning of this new church year, we offer to God our gifts

**God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving
in the way you meet our needs each day,
and in the peace you give which passes understanding.
Having received so much, we offer all we have,
our time, talents and money for your kingdom.
Bless these gifts for the work of your church
today and in the year to come. Amen**

COMMUNION

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to God
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

As children of our Creator God
We join with all creation,
And bless you, Lord, for the earth and all its wonders
For life in all its abundance, and for the gift of new and eternal life
that shapes this reality into that of heaven.
Although today we are apart,
through the death and resurrection of Jesus,
we are made one with you and with each other.
**We thank you that through the gifts of bread and wine
you remind us of your self-giving love in Christ Jesus**

So, may this bread be a sign to us of your broken body,
**May we, in our brokenness receive your life
and bring nourishment to others.**

May this wine be to us a sign of your precious blood
Shed so freely for each one of us.

**May your abundant Life flow in us,
And through us to a hurting world.**

We ask this because on the night before he died Jesus took bread,
gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying
“Take eat; this is my body.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them,
and they all drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many,” he said to
them.

“I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God.”

In this Bread and Wine

We see the hope of that Kingdom - The renewing of all Creation;
And we wait, in anticipation, for all things to be made new.

**In this Bread, and in this Wine
you call us Into a new, redeemed relationship
With yourself and all of your creation.**

THE PEACE

Christ is our peace, and speaks peace to the earth,
to all peoples and all creatures within it.

The peace of our Creator Lord be always with you
.... **And also with you.**

A candle for peace is lit

Invitation to Communion

We gather together, apart as we are, in the presence of Christ.
We gather together, apart as we are, to receive his gifts of grace,
We gather together, apart as we are, because it is Christ who invites us to
meet him here.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

Hymn 4: **Into the Darkness**

Into the darkness of this world
Into the shadows of the night
Into this loveless place You came
Lightened our burdens eased our pain
And made these hearts Your home
Into the darkness once again
O come Lord Jesus come

*Come with Your love to make us whole
Come with Your light to lead us on
Driving the darkness far from our souls
O come Lord Jesus come*

Into the longing of our souls
Into these heavy hearts of stone
Shine on us now Your piercing light
Order our lives and souls aright
By grace and love unknown
Until in You our hearts unite
O come Lord Jesus come

(Chorus)

O Holy Child Emmanuel
Hope of the ages God with us
Visit again this broken place
Till all the earth declares Your praise
And Your great mercies own
Now let Your love be born in us
O come Lord Jesus come

*(Chorus)
Come in Your glory take Your place
Jesus the Name above all names
We long to see You face to face
O come Lord Jesus come*

Prayer after Communion

**Our God, You have blessed us, and fed us
With your Body and Blood – your very life force.
By your Holy Spirit**

**You have come close to us,
And we have come close to you
In this precious feast,
Where Heaven and earth meet.
And so we give you thanks, and praise,
For with you, we are One.**

Hymn 5: Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love

FINAL BLESSING

Thank you God.

**For your presence here with us today
and for your hand that leads us into tomorrow**

May God the Father bless us;

may Christ take care of us;

the Holy Spirit enlighten us all the days of our life.

**The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul,
both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.**

Amen.



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