

Barthol Chapel and Tarves Sunday 20 December 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Materials



Call to Worship for Advent

Place the cloth,
prepare the table;
look for hope
and light the candle.

Sing the songs,
through starshine's sparkle;
look for love:
in manger's marvel.

Ring the bells,
bring out the cradle;
look for peace
birthed in the stable.

Deck the halls
and 'hark!' with angels—
look for joy:
Come, all ye faithful!

Praise CH4 316 Love came down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely, Love divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token
Love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate, love divine
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sign

The theme for our service for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is Joy. Take a moment to focus on those things that bring you joy – give thanks for them.

The Word of God: St Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one!

The Lord is with you.’²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.....

And Mary said,

My soul magnifies the Lord,

*and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;*

*he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’*

Pause to Reflect

Mary had a huge responsibility placed upon her shoulders, which she accepted with wisdom and grace. Even in the midst of the challenges she faces, she is able to rejoice in the God of justice, who has loved, chosen and equipped her for a particular task. Think back over your life to times when you faced a big change and increased responsibility.

- How did you react at that time of change?
- What have you learnt from that experience?
- What would you do differently now?

Think of someone you know who is facing a big challenge at this time. Consider getting in touch with them to offer any support you are able to provide.

Pointers for Prayer

- Remember those suffering from or bereaved by the corona virus
- The NHS

- Give thanks for the work of scientists and researchers on a vaccine and pray for those tasked with the logistics of delivering it
- The governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and their advisers
- Businesses struggling and all who are facing redundancy and financial hardship
- Family, friends and neighbours, those most affected by the current restrictions
- For patience and wisdom when we are tired with the way in which our lives are restricted
- Pray that people will be sensible over meeting up at Christmas
- Pray for those who are struggling with addiction, or poverty, or homelessness at this time.

You might like to conclude your time of prayer with the Lord's prayer

Praise CH4 291 When out of poverty is born

When out of poverty is born

A dream that will not die,

And 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 woman'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!

Notices

There will be no written materials published on the website for the next two Sundays but please do think about joining our special Christmas services live on Zoom – you can join by telephone if you have no internet connection – please contact either of our Session Clerks for these links. Rob Fryer sessionclerk@bartholchapel.com or Susanna Bichard Tel 851345 or e-mail smbichard@aol.com Alternatively you can get the link from others in the congregation who regularly attend on-line services.

This Sunday 20 December

4.00pm Lessons and Carols on Zoom – usual link by internet or telephone.

Community Nine Lessons and Carols Walk – Posters on the lampposts in both communities – take your mobile phone and scan QR codes to listen to carols. Can you find them all?

Netful of Angels, Tarves behind the war memorial. Please take an angel and add it to the net giving thanks for people who have helped you in these challenging times.

Christmas Services – we will be using the usual Zoom link for internet or telephone.

Wednesday 23 December 2.00pm a short act of worship in Tarves Church.

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve 7.00pm Nativity (Come as one of the characters or as you are – Christ welcomes one and all.)

Friday 25 December Christmas Day 10.00am Christmas Celebration (finishes 10.30am)

Sunday 27 December 9.45 for 10.00am Christmas Communion

Christmas Offerings As we will not be taking our special offerings for others this year you might like to support Christian Aid or Crossreach's Covid -19 Emergency Appeal. Their websites have details of their work and you can donate on-line. Alternatively, you may have another charity you would like to support.

Care in the Community if you are aware of anyone in Tarves who needs help of any kind please contact Ruth 851887.

Pastoral Care Please contact the Minister 01651 851295