

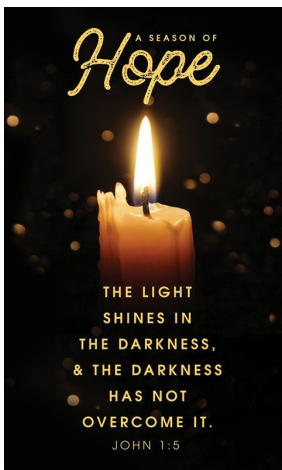
**Welcome to Orchardhill.**  
**We extend a warm welcome to you all this Sunday.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,  
trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.**

For You, Child Jesus, we wait,  
**on this day of anticipation and hope,  
in the days of doubt and worry.**

With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,  
**those for whom this season is not one of joy;  
those whose lives are empty of family and friends.**



### **The Candle of Hope**

**The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.**

## HYMN CH4 181

### For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

*Christ, our God, to you we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise*

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light.

*Christ, our God, to you we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise*

For each perfect gift and sign  
of your love so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.

*Christ, our God, to you we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise*

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## PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:10-11 14-18

‘This is what the LORD says: “You say about this place, ‘It is a desolate waste, without people or animals.’ Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying, ‘Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures for ever.’ For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,” says the LORD.

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfil the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ‘ “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Saviour.” For this is what the LORD says: “David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel, nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.” ’

## **HYMN**

### **"The days are coming," said the Lord to people beaten down,**

"The days are coming in this world when justice will abound.  
My people, you will sing and dance, and hope will blossom forth,  
For I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up on the earth."

O God, you sent the prophets here to people long oppressed;  
You told your children, filled with fear, that one day they'd be blessed.  
You said to cities lost, destroyed by violence, sin or war,  
That they would soon receive the joy that they were longing for.

You promised justice in the land to those who were enslaved;  
You said that one day, by your hand, your cities would be saved.  
As sure as dawn would turn to day and as the sun would set,  
Your children there could trust your way; you were not finished yet.

The days are coming, loving Lord, to sing of Jesus' birth;  
Yet cries for justice still are heard throughout this sinful earth.  
In Advent, may we work and wait, do justice, share and pray,  
And so prepare to celebrate your joyful, coming day.

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## **SERMON**

### **HYMN CH4 605**

#### **Thanks to God whose Word was spoken**

in the making of the earth.

His the voice that called a nation,  
fired her vision, tried her worth.

God has spoken:

Praise Him for His open Word.

Thanks to God whose Word incarnate  
came to save our human race.

Deeds and words and death and rising  
testify to heaven's grace.

God has spoken:

praise Him for His open Word.

Thanks to God whose Word was written  
in the Bible's sacred page,  
record of the revelation  
showing God to every age.

God has spoken:

praise Him for His open Word.

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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

### HYMN CH4 286

#### **Tell out, my soul,**

the greatness of the Lord:  
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of His name:  
make known His might,  
the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the 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 His word:  
firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore

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## BENEDICTION