

Enderby Parish Church: Service of the Word
4th Sunday of Advent (20 December 2020, 9.30am)

Introductory reading:
Colossians 3:1-4

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn:

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down:
fix in us your humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion,
boundless love that makes us whole;
visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling soul.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all your grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore your temples leave:
you we would be always blessing,
serve you as your hosts above,
pray and praise you without ceasing,
glory in your perfect love.

Finish then your new creation,
pure and sinless let us be;
let us see your great salvation
perfect in eternity:
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we lay our crowns before you,
lost in wonder, love and praise.
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Responses (based on Psalm 50):

The mighty God summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

Our God comes and will not be silent.

God calls, and we respond to his love.

The heavens declare God's righteousness.

We tell out God's glories!

Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Video from The Bible Project Advent series ('Love')

Audio only for live stream – you can access the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slyevQ1LW7A&feature=emb_logo

Confession:

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Church Family News

Psalm 148:

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

² **Praise him, all his angels;**
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens**
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,

⁶ **and he established them for ever and ever—**
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ **lightning and hail, snow and clouds,**
stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ **wild animals and all cattle,**
small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,

you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² **young men and women,
old men and children.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the
heavens.

¹⁴ **And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.**

Affirmation of faith

(based on verses from Revelation):
We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**
We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Hymn:

When the King shall come again
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption-day
longingly awaited.

In the desert trees take root
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration.
Rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning:
valleys, this is your new birth;
mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God who comes for such as these
seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping.

There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean
walks the road to Zion;
ransomed people, homeward bound,
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!

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Intercessions

Bible reading: Revelation 21

Sermon

Hymn:

Christ is surely coming, bringing his reward,
Alpha and Omega, first and last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David, brilliant morning Star.
Meet your Judge and Saviour, nations near and
far!
Meet your Judge and Saviour, nations near and
far!

See the holy city! There they enter in,
all by Christ made holy, washed from every sin:
thirsty ones desiring all he loves to give,
come for living water, freely drink, and live!
Come for living water, freely drink, and live!

Grace be with God's people! Praise his holy
name!

Father, Son and Spirit, evermore the same.
Hear the certain promise from the eternal home:
'Surely I come quickly!' Come, Lord Jesus, come!
'Surely I come quickly!' Come, Lord Jesus, come!
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Benediction

Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

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Book recommendation from the Vicar:

*Biblical Teaching on the Doctrines of Heaven
and Hell* by Edward Donnelly:

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/1980/biblical-teaching-on-the-doctrines>