

Advent 1 (29th November, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Be on watch, be alert,

All: **for you do not know when the time will come.**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle *Isaiah 11:1-5*

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord
³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor
of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the
wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The candle is lit.

M: Let us pray: Lord, teach me to wait in hopeful expectation of eternal life.
I wait for you Lord Jesus to come.

All: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Hark, a herald voice is calling! *LH 1*

1. Hark, a herald voice is calling!
‘Christ is nigh’, it seems to say;

**'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'**

- 2. Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.**
- 4. So when next He comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May He then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.**
- 5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.
Amen!**

*Music: W.H. Monk 1823-1889 (1850);
Words: Vox clara ecce intonat; Latin hymn,
6th century. Tr. Edward Caswall, 1849, alt.
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M: God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

C: **We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life.
Amen.**

M: God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his

command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

M: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we remain alert for the coming of the Lord:

All: **Jesus, Son of God,
you have promised to return
at a time that no one knows.
Keep us watchful in prayer
and strong in faith
as we wait for you to come.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

First Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

Open the heavens and come down!

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,

no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. ⁸Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins for ever. Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth
²before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

All: **Awaken your might; come and save us.**

M: ³Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

All: ⁴**How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smoulder
against the prayers of your people?**

M: ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;

All: **you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.**

M: ⁶You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours, and our
enemies mock us.

All: ⁷**Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

M: ¹⁷Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

All: ¹⁸**Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.**

M: ¹⁹ Restore us, Lord God Almighty;

All: **make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

Second Reading – 1 Cor 1:3-9

As you wait for Christ's return

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: Heaven and earth will pass away,

All: **but my words will not pass away.**

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Mark 13:24-37

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord**

No one knows the day or the hour

²⁴ 'But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." ²⁶ 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸ 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things

happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (Spoken) Praise to you, O Christ.

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for promising to return.
Help us always to keep watching
and to be awake and ready.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – Once He came in blessing *LH 4*

- 1. Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing,
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us.
Hope and freedom gave us.**
- 2. Still He comes within us,
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors,
Ere He comes in terrors.**
- 3. Thus if we have known Him,
Not ashamed to own Him,
Nor have spurned Him coldly,
But will trust Him boldly,**

He will then receive us,
Heal us, and forgive us.

4. Those who then are loyal,
Find a welcome royal;
Come then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us;
Let us here confess You,
Till in heaven we bless You.

*Music: 15th cent. M. Weisse's 'Ein New Gesengbuchlen'
1531;*

*Words: Gottes Sohn ist kommen Bohemian Brethren, 1544
asc. Johann Roh (c. 1490-1547) Tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1863, alt.*

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Sermon

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again
from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

1. The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon the road
his glorious gift to meet.
2. The everlasting Son
scorns not a Virgin's womb;
that we from bondage may be won
he bears a bondsman's doom.
3. Daughter of Zion, rise
to meet thy lowly King,
let not thy stubborn heart despise
the peace he deigns to bring.
4. On clouds of dazzling light,
as judge he comes again,
his scattered people to unite
with them in heaven to reign.
5. Let evil flee away
ere that dread hour shall dawn,
let this old Adam day by day
The new Man all put on.
6. Praise to the Incarnate Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father and with spirit one,
to all eternity.

Hymn by Charles Coffin; Translated by John Chandler, altered; Tune by Aaron Williams;

M: Let us pray:

Lord, help us always to remember
that Christ has promised to return.
Keep us faithful to him,
doing the work you have
given us to do,
until he comes to take us to himself.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of the church

M: Lord, teach us to pray:

All: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

M: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine on you and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory.
Go in peace, waiting with confidence for our Lord's return.

All: **Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour,
† and give you peace.

All: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn – Comfort, comfort *LHS 732*

Chorus:

***Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.***

***Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.***

- 1. Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living:
comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother:
comfort, comfort:**

Chorus:

***Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.***

- 2. Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort:**

Chorus:

***Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.***

*Music and Words: Robin Mann 1949- (1975),
based on Isaiah 40:1-5
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