First Sunday of Advent

29th November 2026

♫ Hymn (45) ♫

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And with your people always dwell
Who mourn in mortal exile here
Until the Lord of Life appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

John Mason Neale ((1818-1886)

♫ Hymn (696) ♫

Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,
there they behold Thy mercy seat;
where'er they seek Thee Thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.

For Thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring Thee when they come,
and, going, take Thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
here, to our waiting hearts, proclaim
the sweetness of Thy saving Name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care;
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but Thou art near;
nor short Thine arm, nor deaf Thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!

William Cowper (1731-1800)

♫ Hymn (CAHON 263) ♫

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!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

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;

So when next he comes with glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then as our defender
Of the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.

William Henry Monk (1823 - 1889)

♫ Chant (53) ♫

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

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♫ Hymn (CAHON 92) ♫

Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true;
change my heart, O God,
may I be like you.

You are the potter,
I am the clay;
mould me and make me:
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true;
change my heart, O God,
may I be like you.

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♫ Hymn (CAHON 557) ♫

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Paragon (1881-1965)

First Reading

Isaiah 64.1–9

O that you would tear open the
heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at
your presence—
2as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at
your presence!
3When you did awesome deeds that we
did not expect,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.
4From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait
for him.
5You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in
your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we
transgressed.
6We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a
filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take
us away.
7There is no one who calls on
your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of
our iniquity.
8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are
our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for
ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.3–9

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

4I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in
every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ
has been strengthened among you—
7so that you are not lacking in any
spiritual gift as you wait for the
revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He
will also strengthen you to the end, so
that you may be blameless on the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful;
by him you were called into the
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Gospel

Mark 13.24–37

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling
from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken.
26Then they will see "the Son of Man
coming in clouds" with great power and
glory. 27Then he will send out the angels,
and gather his elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the
ends of heaven.

28'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as
soon as its branch becomes tender and
puts forth its leaves, you know that

summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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.

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.