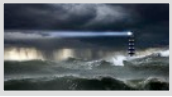




# Prepare the Way of the Lord

**SERVICE ORDER**  
Sunday 06 December 2020

Heart & Anchor Church



**9.45am** Zoom starts admitting people

*As we gather we will play*

**Song:** [Every Valley Shall Be Exalted from Handel's Messiah](#)

**10.00am Welcome and introduction**

The Lord is Here

**His Spirit is with us**

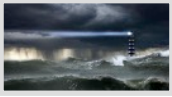
- *As usual, we will mute everyone unless they are speaking. If you speak, you will need to respond to the invitation to unmute yourself to do so.*
- *A reminder if you haven't got it already that you are invited to bring a glass of water as well as bread and/or wine if you wish to consume at the time of communion.*
- *If you need or want to communicate with the host or everyone please feel free to use the chat facility. E.g. if you want to respond to the singing or testimony or preaching or if you have a technical issue and want help.*

**Opening prayer**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Confession**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.



Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

**Short penitential sentences may be inserted between the petitions.**

God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'  
will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

**All Amen.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his goodness,

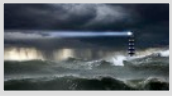
**All and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let us offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving

**All and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.**

## **The Collect**

*Silence is kept.*



O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## ***Old Testament Reading***

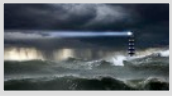
### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

*Read by*

**40** Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to  
Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has  
served her term, that her penalty is  
paid, that she has received from the  
Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness  
prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight in the desert a highway for our  
God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made  
low; the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the  
glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and  
all people shall see it together, for the  
mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice  
says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall  
I cry?" All people are grass, their  
constancy is like the flower of the field.  
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon  
it; surely the people are grass. 8 The  
grass withers, the flower fades; but the  
word of our God will stand forever.





9Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**This is the Word of the Lord**

***Thanks be to God***

**silence**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

***All Alleluia.***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*

***All Glory to you, O Lord.***

***New Testament Reading***

**Mark 1:1-8**

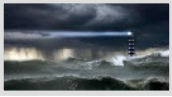
1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were





baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### ***At the end***

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Talk** by Rosy Fairhurst

**Song:** [Every Valley \(It's hard to wait\) featuring Flo Page](#)

### **Declaration of Faith**

Christ has died

**Christ has died**

Christ has risen

**Christ has risen**

Christ will come again

**Christ will come again**

I believe, Alleluia!

**I believe, Alleluia!**

### **Prayers**

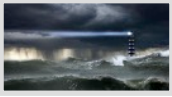
In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid

we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming



and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with Mary, Clement, Augustine and all your saints and angels

we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

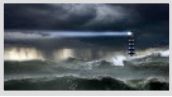
Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;

give new courage to your people,



who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The Peace of the risen Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace – in person or by text or  
message! Zoom peace is saved for coffee time!

**Song:** [Let all mortal flesh keep silence](#)

### **The Communion**

#### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord is here

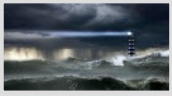
**All** His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

**All** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



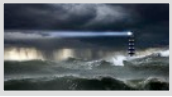


**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.  
And now we give you thanks  
because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death  
and to make us inheritors of everlasting life;  
that when he shall come again in power and great triumph  
to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing,  
and in confidence may stand before him.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



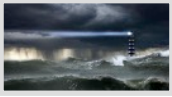
Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy



to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary, Clement, Augustine and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

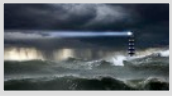
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**

### ***Breaking of the Bread***

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**



### ***The invitation***

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. Amen.

### ***Post Communion Prayers***

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.

**Amen**

### ***The Blessing***

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be among us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

### ***Notices***

### ***Lighting the Advent Candle***



## The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: [My Lighthouse, Rend Collective](#)

