

St Michaels and All Angels, Galleywood, November 19th, 2023

Service of the Word: How can we be ready for the Second Advent?

Welcome and introduction

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”

So shall it be! Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Song: Come now is the time to worship (1040)

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are, to worship
Come, just as you are, before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now (repeat)

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are, to worship
Come, just as you are, before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now (repeat)

Song: Jesus, we enthrone you (MP388)

Jesus, we enthrone you,
We proclaim You our King.
Standing here in the midst of us,
We raise You up with our praise.
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne,
And as we worship, build a throne:
Come, Lord Jesus, and take Your place.

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Song: There is a day (MP1115)

There is a day that all creation's waiting for,
A day of freedom and liberation for the earth.
And on that day
the Lord will come to meet His bride,
And when we see Him
In an instant we'll be changed

The trumpet sounds
And the dead will then be raised
By His power, never to perish again.
Once only flesh,
Now clothed with immortality,
Death has now been
Swallowed up in victory.

*We will meet Him in the air
And then we will be like Him
For we will see Him, as He is
Oh yeah!
Then all hurt and pain will cease
And we'll be with Him forever
And in His glory we will live
Oh yeah! Oh yeah!*

So lift your eyes
To the things as yet unseen,
That will remain now
For all eternity.
Though trouble's hard, it's only momentary
And it's achieving our future glory

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Confession and absolution

Father God, You are a great and awesome God.

Today we come to you in a prayer of confession.

We are sorry for the many things that we have done that are wrong in your eyes.

We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do.

We are asking now for forgiveness for those things

and other things that we have done wrong and don't even know about.

Please forgive us.

In your name alone we pray, Amen.

When we sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Thank you Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the day is said

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Sonlight

Mission Update: Bleed bag in defibrillator – presentation in memory of Liam Taylor (**Julie Taylor**)

Song: The Church's one foundation (640)

The Church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ, our Lord;

she is His new creation,

by water and the word.

From heaven He came and sought her

to be His holy bride;

with His own blood He bought her,

and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,

yet one o'er all the earth,

her charter of salvation:

one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses,

partakes one holy food,

and to one hope she presses,

with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder,
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song!

'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

Bible readings: (Anne Martin)

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two

bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon (Chris)

Creed Song:

Our Father everlasting
The all-creating One
God Almighty.

Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son,
Jesus our Saviour

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You

Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

*I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. (repeat)*

I believe in life eternal,
I believe in the virgin birth,
I believe in the saints' communion,
And in Your holy Church.

I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again.
For I believe, in the name of Jesus.

*I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. (repeat)*

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Intercessions (Mandy)

Lord's prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Thanksgiving for our offering

Gracious God, use this money and all that we have for the building up of your work in this church and the wider world, for your glory. **Amen.**

Notices and family news (Prayer ministry: Sue K and Pam B)

Song: Great is the darkness (835)

Great is the darkness that covers the earth
Oppression, injustice and pain
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair
Though many have come in Your name
Watching while sanity dies
Touched by the madness and lies

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit we pray
Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit on us today

May now Your church rise with power and love
This glorious gospel proclaim
In every nation salvation will come
To those who believe in Your name
Help us bring light to this world
That we might speed Your return

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit we pray
Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit on us today

Great celebrations on that final day
When out of the heavens You come
Darkness will vanish all sorrow will end
And rulers will bow at Your throne
Our great commission complete
Then face to face we shall meet.

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit we pray
Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus
Pour out Your spirit on us today

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Conclusion and blessing

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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