

# St Michael and All Angels Galleywood

## Sunday 22nd December



4th Sunday of Advent

**A Challenge**

### **Introduction**

Advent is the time when we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ – both for his first coming at Christmas and his return in glory.

“Behold, I am coming soon” says the Lord. “I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the church.

**“Come!” let each hearer reply!**

“Surely I am coming soon!”

**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

Your light has shone in our darkened world  
grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepared for the coming of your Son,  
who is the Lord and Saviour of all. Amen.

### **Hymn MP 420**

Like a candle flame,  
Flickering small in our darkness.  
Uncreated light  
Shines through infant eyes.

*God is with us, alleluia. (men)*

*God is with us, alleluia. (women)*

*Come to save us, alleluia. (men)*

*Come to save us, (women)*  
*Alleluia! (all).*

Stars and angels sing,  
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows;  
Can this tiny spark  
Set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine  
From our lives, spirit blazing,  
As we touch the flame  
Of his holy fire.

Graham Kendrick

### **MP 1045**

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Saviour of the human race!  
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,  
Humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,  
Filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again -  
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,  
He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions,  
He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me,  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls are free -  
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,

Interceding for His own beloved  
Till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,  
Giving glory to Immanuel

Stuart Townend

### **MP 870**

Jesus is the name we honour;  
Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic Name above all other names,  
The highest heaven and earth proclaim  
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,  
We will lift him high,  
We will give him honour and praise.  
We will glorify,  
We will lift him high,  
We will give him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
Let all creation stand and sing  
That Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
And every eye at last shall see  
That Jesus is our God.

Phil Lawson Johnston.

### **Confession**

We confess that amid all the joys and festivities of the season, we have sometimes forgotten what Christmas really means, and have left the Lord Jesus out of our thinking and living.

**Father, forgive us.**

Help us to remember that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, who was born to be our Saviour.

**Lord, help us.**

We confess that we have allowed the most important event in history to become dulled by familiarity.

**Father, forgive us.**

Help us in this act of worship to recapture a sense of wonder, and to discover again the stupendous fact that the Creator of the universe came to us as a newborn baby.

**Lord, help us.**

We confess to a selfish enjoyment of Christmas while we do little to help the homeless families of your world.

**Father, forgive us.**

**Fill our hearts with the love that cares, that understands and gives; show us how we can best serve those in need;**

**For the sake of him who was born in a stable, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Some words from Isaiah 43

Thus says the Lord: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old

**See, I am doing a new thing**

I am making a road through the desert, rivers in the wilderness, living water for the people I chose, the people I made for myself, a people created to praise me.

**For I, even I, am the one who removes your transgressions and keeps not record of your sins.**

**Collect for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him

who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,

Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages. **Amen.**

**Prayer for Mega as they leave (No Sonlight)**

## Mission Update: Sena and Jane

### Hymn 959

What kind of greatness can this be  
That chose to be made small?  
Exchanging untold majesty  
For a world so pitiful  
That God should come as one of us  
I'll never understand  
The more I hear the story told  
The more amazed I am

*Oh what else can I do  
But kneel and worship you  
And come just as I am  
My whole life an offering*

The One in whom we live and move  
In swaddling cloths lies bound  
The voice that cried "let there be light"  
Asleep without a sound  
The One who strode among the stars  
And called each one by name  
Lies helpless in a mother's arms  
And must learn to walk again

What greater love could he have shown  
To shamed humanity  
Yet human pride hates to believe  
In such deep humility  
But nations now may see his grace  
And know that he is near  
When his meek heart, his words, his works  
Are incarnate in us here

Graham Kendrick

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Zephaniah 3** <sup>14- end</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.

<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
'Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.'

<sup>18</sup> 'I will remove from you  
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,  
which is a burden and reproach for you.

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you.  
I will rescue the lame;  
I will gather the exiles.  
I will give them praise and honour  
in every land where they have suffered shame.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honour and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes<sup>[e]</sup>  
before your very eyes,'  
says the LORD.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** - Luke 3 <sup>7-18</sup>

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup> 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?'

<sup>13</sup> ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’

He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with<sup>[b]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn MP 624.**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine:  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store:  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal

### **Thanksgiving for our Offerings**

As we give our money, our talents, our time and our care, we acknowledge that the Father of Lights has given us every good and perfect gift.

**We give him thanks and praise.**

### **Affirmation of faith**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**



## Notices and family news

### Hymn O come all ye faithful (traditional words tune MP491)

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O Come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God  
Begotten, not created

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest

Frederick Oakley

### Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us, scatter the darkness from our paths, and make us ready to meet Him when He comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us, and remain with us always,

**Amen**

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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