



**SAINT JOHN'S MALONE**



## **Sunday First**

**A Service of the Word &  
Nativity First Sunday in Advent**

**3rd December 2023**

**10.30am**

**PREPARATION**

### **THE GREETING**

We meet in the name of God:

**God the Father,**

**God the Son,**

**God the Spirit:**

**God is one.**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**HYMN: 128**

Hills of the north, rejoice,  
river and mountain spring,  
Hark to the advent voice;  
valley and lowland, sing.

Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth;  
Carry on every breeze  
hope of the world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew;  
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise!  
He is your brightest morn;  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
the God whom you have longed to know  
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.



Shores of the utmost west,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never ending light,  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout as you journey home;  
songs be in every mouth!  
Lo, from the north they come,  
from the east and west and south:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the longing earth be blessed.

## Lighting the Advent wreath:

*[See A4 sheets]*

**The Advent verse is sung after lighting the Advent wreath (Tune: Cradle Song)**

The world was in darkness and nobody knew  
The way to the Father as you and I do  
The needed a light to show them the way  
And the light it shone bright on that first Christmas day.

## **PENITENCE**

As we bow our heads, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *(Heb. 4:16)*

God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying, giving, greed, and struggle. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we have a tendency to make it a time of stress. We over-schedule our time, overdraw our resources, ignore those moments in which we could just relax and have quiet time with our families and with you. Forgive us for our stubborn insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on your love. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, **Amen**



Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **THE COLLECT**

**Advent 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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

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

4 I 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— 6 just 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: 134**

1. Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Make way, make way  
for the King of kings;  
Make way, make way,  
and let his kingdom in.*

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free.

The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh;

With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

4. We call you now to worship him  
as lord of all,

to have no gods before him  
their thrones must fall!

## **Gospel Reading Mark 13: 24-37**

24 'But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. 27 Then 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. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven 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. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It 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. 35 Therefore, 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, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ~~~~SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY~~~~

### THE RESPONSE

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith in God:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**



**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

### **HYMN 325**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### **PRAYERS**

*(‘Maranatha’ – from the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus – means ‘Our Lord, come.’ Used in Christian worship from early times.)*

God, our Father in heaven, help us this Advent, and always, to prepare for his coming.

Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

***Sung Refrain: Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom (repeat)***

Father God, Give your Spirit to your people that we may be witnesses of Christ’s saving grace and agents of his peace.

Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father God, we long for that Day when all wrongs will be put right. We pray for the leaders of this and every nation ...

Strengthen us to break down barriers, work for justice, and heal the world's brokenness.

Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Refrain*

Father God, we long for that Day when there will be no more sorrow or pain. We pray for those who suffer now from grinding poverty, aching loneliness, or prolonged ill-health ... Bless those who care for them, and grant to all who are in need, healing and strength, perseverance and hope.

Maranatha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Refrain*

Father God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have died ...

Grant us with them, and with all the saints ...

a share in your eternal kingdom,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathering up all our petitions to serve the needs of the world we pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Hymn 133**

Long ago, prophets knew

Christ would come, born a Jew,

come to make all things new;

bear his people's burden,

freely love and pardon.



*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes,*  
*when he comes,*  
*who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human: ***Refrain***

Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected, ***Refrain***

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlehem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry! ***Refrain***

## **DISMISSAL**

**In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name. Amen**

### **Blessing**

May God the Father, Judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.  
**Amen.**



May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you always **Amen.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

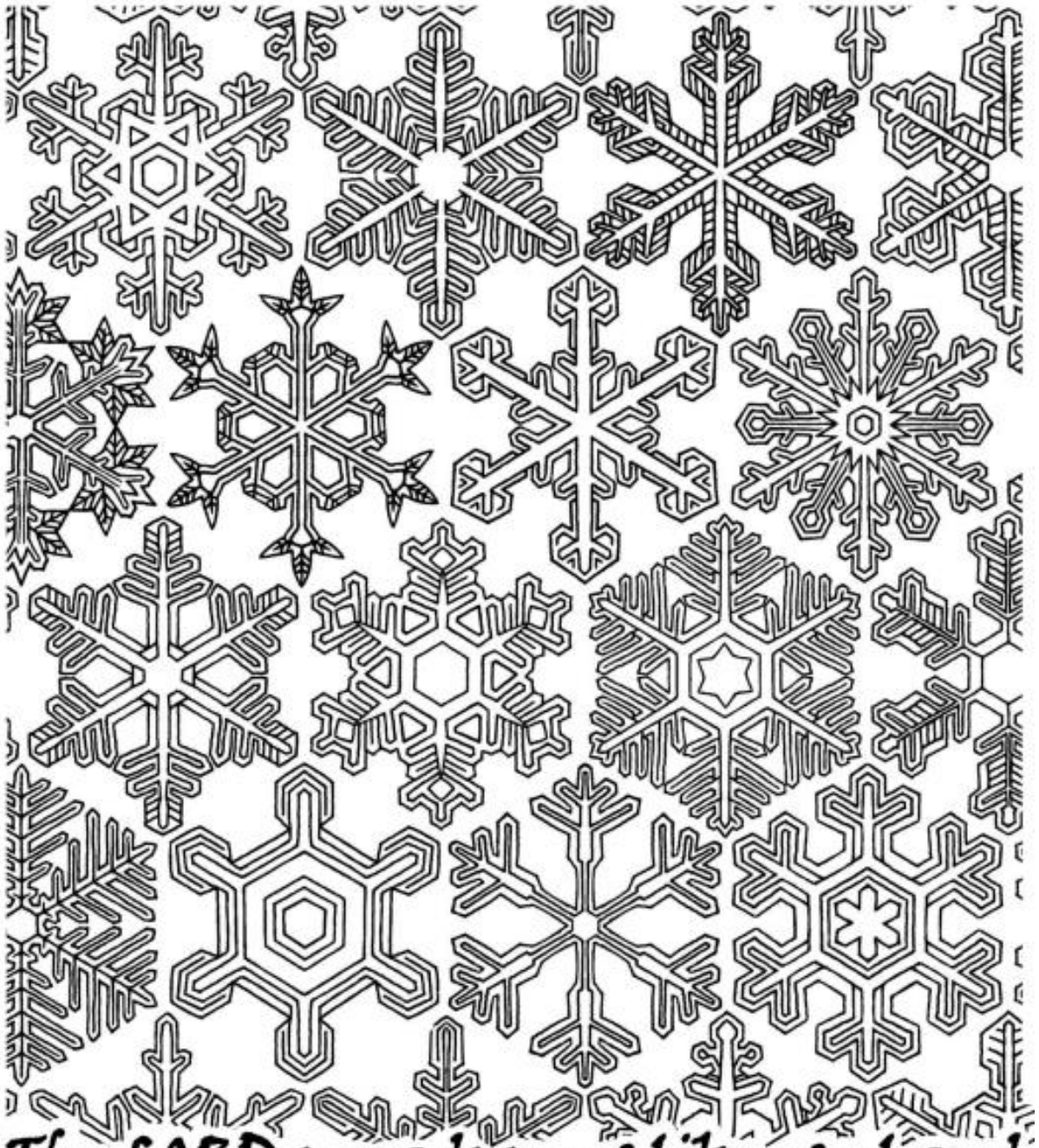
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)

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*The LORD spreads snow like wool and  
scatters frost like ashes. Ps 147:16*



# CHRISTMAS APPEAL



## HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOOD BANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS CHRISTMAS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



### DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



### SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Don't  
forget...

You can help transform  
more lives with a  
financial donation too.