



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Sunday First

A Service of the Word & Nativity

Second Sunday in Advent

4th December 2022

10.30am

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.

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!

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


Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
Give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading:

Romans 15: 4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
'Therefore I will confess* you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';
¹⁰and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';
¹¹and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';
¹²and again Isaiah says,
'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'
¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 3: 1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 ‘I baptize you with^{*} water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^{*} the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

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.**



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.**

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.**

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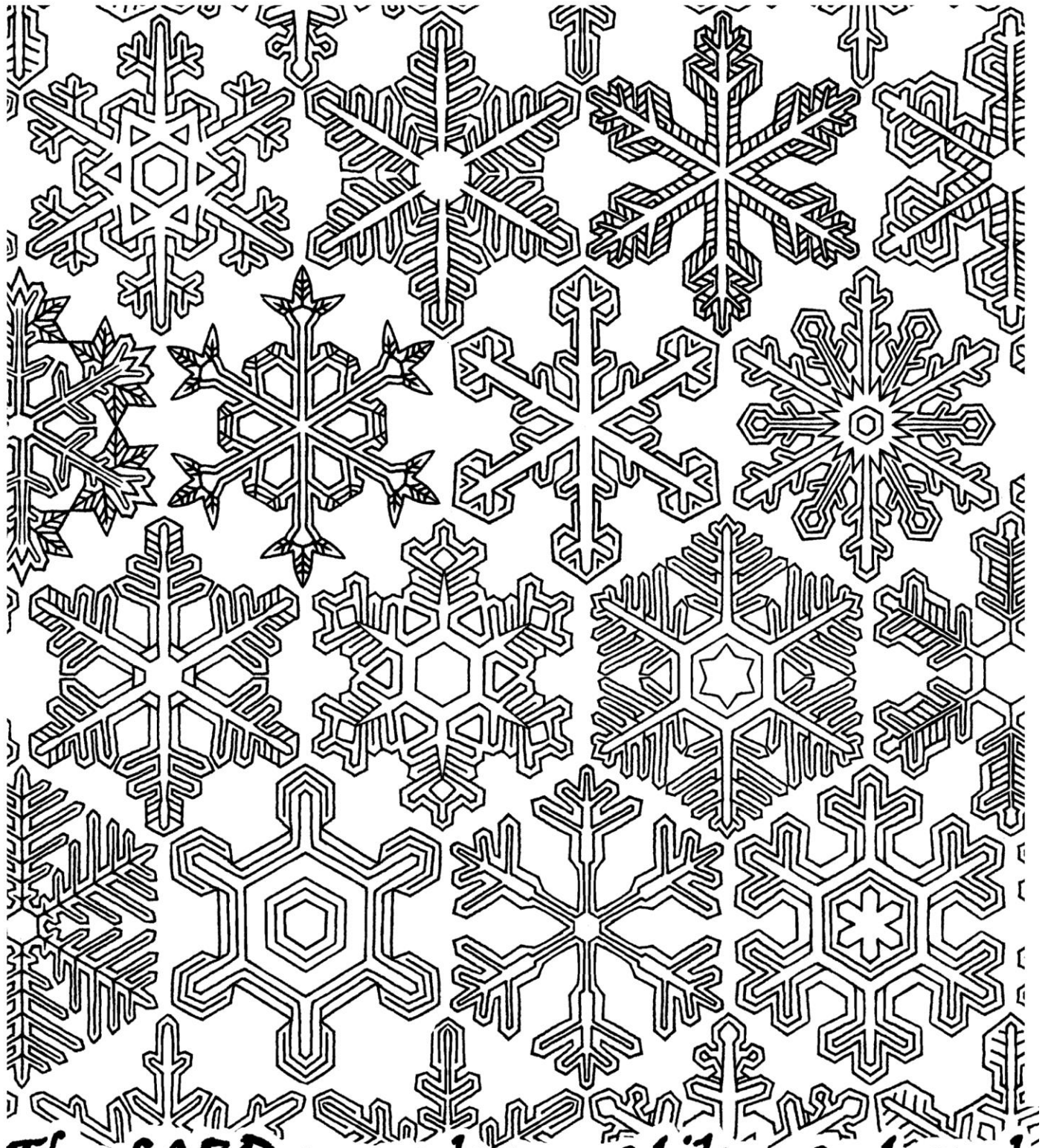
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*The LORD spreads snow like wool and  
scatters frost like ashes. Ps 147:16*