*Eucharist Advent 4, Year B, 20.12.2020*

*Hymn Come thou long expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The Greeting*

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

*Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle:*

God our Father,

the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary

that she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid,

she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you,

to share like her in your great work

of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

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*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of  the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

*First Reading* **2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16**

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

## *Second Reading* Romans 16: 25-27

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

## This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *St Luke*.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

*The Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father (and the Son,)**

**who with the Father and the Son**

**is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

*People in Zimbabwe pray daily for us. Let us also pray for them daily: God Bless Zimbabwe, protect her children, transform her leaders, heal her communities and grant her peace, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen. Pray for the people suffering hardship and hunger in Zimbabwe, and for our Link Dioceses: Bishop Ignatios in Central Zimbabwe, Bishop Erick in Manicaland, Bishop Cleophas in Matabeleland and Bishop Godfrey in Masvingo, their clergy and people.*

*In the Diocesan Calendar, we pray for our own Deanery. Today we pray especially for: THAMESMEAD TEAM MINISTRY*

*Patrick Eggleston (TR) (AsstAD); Jonathan Macy (TV); Bisi Akano-Adesoye (AsstC); Thamesmead, St Paul; Abbey Wood, William Temple; Karen Saunders (CA) (Pioneer Evangelist to Young People); Thamesmead, Church of the Cross; Bishop John Robinson School: Matthew Harris (Headteacher); West Thamesmead Community Church: Andrew Willett (EPURC); Sally Willett (EPURC)*

*In the Anglican Communion we pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers’ Union around the world. We pray especially for USPG*

*We also pray for all whose year’s mind falls at this time.*

Lord of heaven, may the Church be quiet enough to hear your voice,

humble enough to move your way, and excited enough to spread the good news.

*Silence*

Living God:

**let your kingdom come**

Lord of heaven, bless all who lead with integrity and respect for others;

bless all in positions of authority with humility and a sense of right;

may unjust practices be changed for good

and conflicts of great tension be peacefully resolved.

*Silence*

Living God:

**let your kingdom come**

Lord of heaven, make our homes places of loving acceptance and developing faith;

teach us in all our friendships to grow in generosity of spirit.

*Silence*

Living God:

**let your kingdom come**

Lord of heaven, give patience and courage to all who have to wait,

when the waiting is long and painful;

bring healing to all who are wounded, whether physically or emotionally,

and give them assurance of your presence.

*Silence*

Living God:

**let your kingdom come**

Lord of heaven, welcome into your eternity

those who have died to this life and whose hope is in you.

Comfort those who mourn them and reach into their pain with your love.

*Silence*

Living God:

**let your kingdom come**

Lord of heaven, we thank you for your faithful promise to us, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

We welcome this kingship in our lives.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*The 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*Hymn Hark the glad sound*

Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long:

let ev’ry heart prepare a throne, let ev’ry voice a song.

He comes, the pris’ners to release in Satan’s bondage held;

the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,

and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;

and heaven’s eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

*Preparation of the Altar*

*Prayer at the preparation of the altar.*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;

draw us from hatred to love;

make the frailty of our praise

a dwelling place for your glory.

**Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,

whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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 God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,

yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ

you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;

loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own,

he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he 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.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,

we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,

we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high

and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father,

by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation

be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick,

let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints

at the table in your kingdom,

where the new creation is brought to perfection in 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. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

*Agnus Dei*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*Giving of Communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Quiet Music: The angel Gabriel*

*Prayer after Communion*

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Then we pray together:*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,**

**that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,

give you grace to prepare for life eternal.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge,

reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,

help you bear the fruits of holiness.

**Amen.**

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

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Hymn Tell out my soul*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;   
tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.  
  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name: make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;   
his mercy sure, from age to age to same; his holy Name, the Lord, the mighty one.  
  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might: powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.  
  
Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word: firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.   
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore!

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