

Hymn: 180 'O Come, O come Immanuel'

Activity: Pray, Faith, Patience, Sit, Evangel, Peace, Love, Ready, Teach, Pact, Church, Low, All, Word, Pastor, Repent, Hill, Share, Now, Road, Send, Noah, Dip, Hied, Idle, True & Dye - Please, find these words to write...

F	P	R	A	Y	P	E	A	C	E
A	A	A	E	L	O	V	E	H	V
W	S	I	T	A	L	O	I	U	A
O	T	E	T	I	D	L	E	R	N
R	O	E	N	H	E	Y	I	C	G
D	R	O	A	D	I	N	E	H	E
D	A	P	A	C	T	N	C	U	L
H	I	E	D	S	H	A	R	E	O
R	E	P	E	N	T	T	N	O	W

...your role description as the Event Organiser of the Second Coming of Christ.

Hymn 405 "Great is the darkness"

Our Response in Prayer:

1. Dear Lord, we bring before you all the countries, causes and situations mentioned on our church prayer list/book and in the news, we ask for your wisdom, help and guidance in our responses and actions towards them in the future. We remember our church family, please put your healing arms around all who need your blessing. Our church building is of much concern, Lord, please guide the decision makers. We ask all of this in and through Christ's wonderful name of love, (Eva Terry NMC).

2. Heavenly Father, we pray for a cure to the Global Pandemic which, now has a variant on the delta variant and is found in Africa, the Netherlands, and other parts of the world. With international travel to these countries, we pray that the spread of this

new variant can be restricted.

Help us Lord, with this cure to the pandemic so we can concentrate our minds on resolving other international problems, human trafficking, climate change but to name two of our modern-day plights.

Help us Lord have a thoughtful Advent and a Peaceful and loving Christmas. We ask all these things in the name of our Shepherd King, your Son, Jesus Christ (Peter Dipple NMC).

3. Lord, we pray for all those names and situations in our church prayer list/book and for the family of the young girl killed in Liverpool, also for all those bereaved tragically at this time, the migrant families and all those trying to get to England. Help our leaders to find a better solution, remembering that migrants are people just like us. Also, Lord, following on from our last church council and AGM meetings, help us to find the way you wish us to go.

We also thank you for our own well-being during these difficult times. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord (Dorothy Holmes NMC)

4. Other prayer concerns.....

The Lord's Prayer - Our Father ... Amen!

Blessing - May your love overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Amen.

Hymn: 189 'Wild and lone'

By Rev Marcus Torchon

COVENTRY & NUNEATON METHODIST CHURCH

Worship is our Way of Life!

Preparing For Jesus' Coming

On this



5th December 2021

Readings for the Day: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

This sheet's content is exclusively for home worship.

## Order of Service

### Advent 2

*Light a candle in a darken place,  
In its flame see hope on every face,  
Christ our Saviour will be born,  
Heralding a brand new dawn,  
So let it be (174 StF, verse 1).*

**Invocation:** “Jesus, our purifier, refine us today us today as we worship!”

**Affirmation** “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:6).

**Petition:** “Lord, may we be a voice to the voiceless, a voice that speaks your word”.

### Hymn 185 “Sing we the King”

**Prayer:** “Dear Lord and father of mankind forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful minds, in purer lives thy service find; in deeper reverence praise”.

We are deeply sorry for any damage caused to your wonderful gifts to us by our negligence and selfishness in past years. May we acknowledge those and take more care in our actions today; may we stop our foolishness and try to sway the determination of some leaders in power to put profit before people!

Help us to follow Christ’s example more closely - strengthen the feelings of love and respect for you and all humanity, so that the world may be a better place to live in (Eva Terry NMC).

### Hymn 201 “Good News”

## Reflection

On First Sunday of Advent, we reflected on the coming of Jesus, using the theme ‘Lord, Jesus, Come’. This ‘coming’ was a huge event and as such redefined human history. It set in motion the values of the Kingdom of Christ towards ending the evil of oppression, the culture of sin, and inhibiting religious traditions. In essence, it opened the door to hope and reconciliation, to rays of light to dissipate our darkness and to love, joy, and peace in our individual and collective lives.

Every event requires lots of preparations and therefore an Event Organizer. John the Baptist got the edge to prepare for that huge event. He was sent by God, for such a task, at such a time. ‘See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me’ ... (Malachi 3.1). Luke echoed Malachi’s and Isaiah’s message, in fact, extended it. John “went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3). This must have been a difficult task!

Certainly, it was and still is! Repentance requires a U-turn from a broad road that leads to death to a narrow road that leads to life. The fact that many loved to take the broad way showed how difficult it was to repent. Still, today many people live as if they have ‘nothing to declare’, or ‘no wrong to confess’. To speak of ‘repentance for the forgiveness of sins’ is to speak a foreign language in their ears. Even so, as John the Baptist carved a suitable way to prepare the people for the First Coming of Christ, we will

find a gentle, thoughtful way of preparing people, far and near, of our current generation, for the Second Coming of Christ.

John was sent to “prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. This meant that (1) every valley *should* be filled, and (2) every mountain and hill *should* be made low, and (3) the crooked *should* be made straight, and (4) the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:4-5). As you may be aware, change is not easily achievable, in fact, those changes led to resistance, making John’s life difficult. Even so, John’s role was decisive and timely. He pressed on. Our role in preparing the way for the Second Coming is not any different.

Church, alike John the Baptist we are messengers of God for such a time as this. It is an unavoidable event that ‘Jesus will come again’ so that we need to prepare the way as Event Organizers! Acceptance of Jesus’ shed blood makes us worthy for the role; his presence makes the feast that strengthens us; the church fellowship provides us with support; our love and passion for Christ triggers our readiness – Church, let’s then make disciples, preparing for the Coming.

As Event Organizers, and given the imminence of his Coming, let us now reflect both on our own readiness to meet Christ and our role descriptions in the Preparation. To build the church and expand the Kingdom of God on earth, we have distinct roles to play as Event Organizers.

May Jesus, our ‘refiner and purifier, purify and refine us like gold and silver’, to present our offerings of commitment to His Work!