

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Family Service for Lights of Love 2021 Advent Sunday 28th November 2021

We Gather

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

We wait for the coming of Christ, the light
of the world.

Come Lord Jesus.

The first Advent candle is lit

The true light which enlightens everyone
is coming into the world.

Come Lord Jesus.

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness will not overcome it.

Christ, shine in your church today.

**As we light this Advent candle,
may its flame be for us a sign of hope;
may its warmth be a symbol of God's
love for us; and may it inspire us to be
hope bearers – people of compassion
and integrity, as we gather in the name
of Jesus who is the light of the world.
Amen.**

Song

It's so exciting!

Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir

It's so exciting!

I'm on the edge of my seat.

Can you believe it's true?

There's nothing like it,

It sounds amazing to me,

Can't wait to see what He's gonna do!

He's got a plan that's gonna surprise us all,

He's got a gift to give to the world.

*He's gonna do what's never been done
before,*

It's gonna be a miracle!

We've got the schedule,

So can we stick to it please?

There isn't time to lose.

It's something special,

To be a part of the scene,

Can't wait to see what He's gonna do!

He's got a plan that's gonna surprise us all,

He's got a gift to give to the world.

*He's gonna do what's never been done
before,*

It's gonna be a miracle!

We draw close to God

Preparation

**Let us prepare our hearts as we await
the coming of our Lord.**

**Let us watch for the one who heard our
cries and shouldered the suffering of our
world.**

**Let us anticipate the coming of
Christ's eternal world with wholeness,
reconciliation and plenty for all.**

**Let us wait in expectation for the day
when God's glory is revealed in all its
fullness.**

We say sorry to God

Creator of light and darkness,
we so often chase shadows
and fail to walk in the light.

Forgive us, O God.

A time of stillness

We travel through Advent as forgiven
people, lifting our faces towards the light.
Let us walk together in hope and in faith.

Amen.

Alison Adam

Collect

**Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Bright Star-Maker God

**Bright star-maker God,
travel with us
through Advent.**

**shine into our
dark corners**

**illuminate
paths to healing**

**lead us into
ways of justice**

**warm us
with joy and wonder**

**bring us
to new birth.**

Ruth Burgess

Hymn

*During which the tree lights will be
switched on*

Jesus, you're coming, bringing the love
That draws the earth near to heaven above,
We'll wait as the darkness covers the earth,
And long for the joy of remembering your
birth.

*We'll kindle a flame to shine through the
night,*

*Living our lives to shine with your light,
And sharing your love in all that we do,
Your wonderful story is our story too.*

Fruit of the seasons, blessings to share,
This wondrous creation placed in our care,
The city and forest, ocean and land,
The whole world is treasured in God's
gentle hand.

We'll kindle a flame ...

Love like a circle, love never ends,
The love of a God who calls us his friends,
A love without price, a free gift of grace,
That holds all the world in a heavenly
embrace.

We'll kindle a flame ...

We listen

Bible Readings

John 1.1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the
Word was with God, and the Word was
God. He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has
been made. In him was life, and that life
was the light of all mankind. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it. There was a man
sent from God whose name was John. He
came as a witness to testify concerning
that light, so that through him all might
believe. He himself was not the light; he
came only as a witness to the light. The
true light that gives light to everyone was
coming into the world.

John 12.35-36

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Hymn

419 - Lord, the light of your love is shining

Reflection

We respond

A Creed for Advent

**We believe in God,
robed in splendour,
veiled in mystery,
ruler alike of darkness and light.**

**We encounter God
in Jesus Christ,
who was tortured and put to death,
but whose radiance could not be
quenched;
whose touch brings a blaze of colour
to a dull, drab world:
reviving the weary,
healing the wounded,
dazzling the satisfied.**

**We walk with God,
guided by the light of God's loving spirit,
who enters the shadowed places of our
hearts
and leads us into truth and life.**

**We wait for God,
and for the fulfilment of God's promises,
for the time when darkness will hold no
fear**

**and the light will no longer blind,
but creation will be made whole once
more
and God's peace will reign for ever.
Amen.**

Cally Booker

We place the stars on the trees

Music: Advent Hymn *by Christy Nockels*

Prayer

Light of the world
In the suffering,
in the aching,
in the mourning,
in the weeping,
Jesus, light of the world, shine for us.

In the raging,
in the warring,
in the destroying,
in the violating,
Jesus, light of the world, shine for us.

In the hoping,
in the caring,
in the restoring,
in the tending and mending,
Jesus, light of the world, shine for us.

In the ending,
in the beginning,
in the dying,
in the rising,
**Jesus, light of the world, shine for us.
Amen.**

Song

Light a Little Candle
Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir

Light a little candle of hope in your heart
Christ the Lord is coming soon
Oh, light a little candle of hope in your heart
Reflect it in all that you do

*Oh, light a little candle of hope
Light a little candle of peace and love
Light a little candle of joy in your heart
Christmas time is coming soon*

Light a little candle of joy in your heart
Christmas time will soon be here
Oh, light a little candle of joy in your heart
Let its glory shine out bright and clear

*Oh, light a little candle of hope
Light a little candle of peace and love
Light a little candle of joy in your heart
Christmas time will soon be here*

Light a little candle of peace in your heart
Christmas lights will soon burn bright
Oh, light a little candle of joy in your heart
Let it burn throughout the night

*Oh, light a little candle of hope
Light a little candle of peace and love
Light a little candle of joy in your heart
Christmas time will soon be here*

Joseph M Martin

Prayers

*Ending with
The 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.**

We leave to show God's light in the world

News and Notices

Hymn

438 - Make way, make way

Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,
**We wait filled with hope,
knowing your light will shine in the
darkness.**

We wait anticipating your peace,
**Believing that one day it will fill our
world.**

We wait embracing your love,
**May we reach out to share it with our
neighbours.**

We wait with joy,
**Bubbling in us, in expectation of your
birth.**

Lord we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.
Christine Sine

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

Let us go in peace to watch and wait for
the light.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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