

3rd Sunday of Advent 13th December 2020

LOVE

You may like to gather the following resources which we will use throughout the service: a candle and matches (or a battery operated candle if you have one), Bible and a cross (why not draw one or cut one out of paper if you don't have one?)

GATHERING

In the beginning
When it was very dark,
God said 'Let there be light'
And there was light
Place the candle on the table and light it
All Say: GOD IS WITH US

In the beginning
When it was very quiet,
The word was with God
And what God was, the word was
Place the Bible on the table and open it
All Say: GOD IS WITH US

When the time was right,
God sent his son.
He came among us,
He was one of us.
Place the wooden cross on the table
All Say: GOD IS WITH US

Maranatha: **Come Lord Jesus**

Confession

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:

forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. We say together: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy. We say together: **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.

Lord, have mercy. We say together: **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

WORD

Isaiah 61:1-4

This is the word of the Lord: **thanks be to God**

RESPONSE

A short reflection

Some questions to ponder on:

1. I wonder what would be good news for the world at the moment?
2. I wonder where you have experienced love?

Song When Love came down

When love came down to earth

And made his home with men

The hopeless found a hope

The sinner found a friend.

Not to the powerful

But to the poor he came

And humble, hungry hearts

Were satisfied again.

What joy, what peace has come to us!

What hope, what help, what love!

When every unclean thought
And every sinful deed
Was scourged upon his back
And hammered through his feet.
The innocent is cursed
The guilty are released;
The punishment of God
On God has brought me peace.
What joy, what peace has come to us!
What hope, what help, what love!

Come lay your heavy load
Down at the master's feet;
Your shame will be removed
Your joy will be complete.
Come crucify your pride
And enter as a child;
For those who bow down low
He'll lift up to his side.
What joy, what peace has come to us!
What hope, what help!
What joy, what peace has come to us!
What hope, what help, what love, what love!

Intercessions

We pray firstly, for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends

For their health, needs, joy, fear and peace

SILENCE

God of creation, God of salvation: **hear the prayer of our hearts**

We pray for our extended family and friends who we're struggling to see at this time

For their love and concern, their wellbeing and peace

SILENCE

God of creation, God of salvation: **hear the prayer of our hearts**

As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less

For a blessing this Advent-time

SILENCE

God of creation, God of salvation: **hear the prayer of our hearts**

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its peoples

For the needs of this week and the future

SILENCE

God of creation, God of salvation: **hear the prayer of our hearts**

AMEN

Meditation

SENDING OUT

Notices

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

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Recording of When Love came Down from A church near you resources

Short reflections based on material from [www.reflectionary.org](http://www.reflectionary.org)

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