**Evening Worship for the Second Sunday before Advent**

**St Peter’s Shipley *Sunday 15th November 2020***

*Welcome*

***The Greeting***

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Your faithful servants bless you.

**They make known the glory of your kingdom.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

our light and our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

Now, as darkness is falling,

wash away our transgressions,

cleanse us by your refining fire

and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

By the light of Christ,

dispel the darkness of our hearts

and make us ready to enter your kingdom,

where songs of praise for ever sound.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

**Blessed be God for ever.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,

let us pray with one heart and mind.

***Silence is kept***

As our evening prayer rises before you O God,

so may your mercy come down on us

to cleanse our hearts

and set us free to sing your praise

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

***Praise***

**From the highest of heights**

**To the depths of the sea**

**Creation's revealing Your majesty**

**From the colours of fall**

**To the fragrance of spring**

**Every creature unique**

**In the song that it sings**

**All exclaiming**

**Indescribable, uncontainable**

**You placed the stars in the sky**

**And You know them by name**

**You are amazing, God**

**All powerful, untamable**

**Awestruck, we fall to our knees**

**As we humbly proclaim**

**You are amazing, God**

**Who has told every lightning bolt**

**Where it should go**

**Or seen heavenly storehouses**

**Laden with snow?**

**Who imagined the sun**

**And gives source to its light**

**Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?**

**None can fathom**

**Indescribable, uncontainable**

**You placed the stars in the sky**

**And You know them by name**

**You are amazing, God**

**Incomparable, unchangeable**

**You see the depths of my heart**

**And you love me the same**

**You are amazing God**

Laura Story, Additional lyrics by Jesse Reeves

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***Penitence***

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel

 the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Lord our God,**

**in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

**like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**deliver us from judgement;**

**bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

May the God of love

bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***The Word of God***

**Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 40:25-31**

25 God, the Holy One, says, “Can you compare me to anyone?

 Is anyone equal to me?”

26 Look up to the skies.

 Who created all these stars?

He leads out the army of heaven one by one

 and calls all the stars by name.

Because he is strong and powerful,

 not one of them is missing.

27 People of Jacob, why do you complain?

 People of Israel, why do you say,

“The Lord does not see what happens to me;

 he does not care if I am treated fairly”?

28 Surely you know.

 Surely you have heard.

The Lord is the God who lives forever,

 who created all the world.

He does not become tired or need to rest.

 No one can understand how great his wisdom is.

29 He gives strength to those who are tired

 and more power to those who are weak.

30 Even children become tired and need to rest,

 and young people trip and fall.

31 But the people who trust the Lord will become strong again.

They will rise up as an eagle in the sky;

 they will run and not need rest;

 they will walk and not become tired.

*(Tr – New Century Version)*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Reflection***

*(A song recorded for this month’s Messy Church online, which may not be well-known to everyone but seemed appropriate to share with the wider church as we reflect on today’s readings.)*

I lay my life down at Your feet

'Cause You're the only one I need

I turn to You and You are always there

In troubled times it's You I seek

I put You first that's all I need

I humble all I am all to You

One way, Jesus

You're the only one that I could live for

One Way, Jesus

You're the only one that I could live for

You are always, always there

Every how and everywhere

Your grace abounds so deeply within me

You will never ever change

Yesterday, today the same

Forever till forever meets no end

*You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life*

*We live by faith and not by sight for You*

*We're living all for You*

Joel Timothy Houston / Jonathon Douglass

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**New Testament Reading**

**Luke 1:57-66**

*The Birth of John*

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. 58 Her neighbours and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father’s name, 60 but his mother said, “No! He will be named John.”

61 The people said to Elizabeth, “But no one in your family has this name.” 62 Then they made signs to his father to find out what he would like to name him.

63 Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John,” and everyone was surprised. 64 Immediately Zechariah could talk again, and he began praising God. 65 All their neighbours became alarmed, and in all the mountains of Judea people continued talking about all these things. 66 The people who heard about them wondered, saying, “What will this child be?” because the Lord was with him.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Talk from John***

***Intercessions***

***Collect of the day***

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed

 to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is live and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

***The Lord’s Prayer***

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done,**

**On earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sins,**

**As we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**And deliver us from evil**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**Now and for ever**

**Amen**

***Praise***

**Lord I come to You**

**Let my heart be changed, renewed**

**Flowing from the grace**

**That I've found in You**

**Lord I've come to know**

**The weaknesses I see in me**

**Will be stripped away**

**By the power of Your love**

**Hold me close**

**Let Your love surround me**

**Bring me near**

**Draw me to Your side**

**And as I wait**

**I'll rise up like an eagle**

**And I will soar with You**

**Your Spirit leads me on**

**In the power of Your love**

**Lord unveil my eyes**

**Let me see You face to face**

**The knowledge of Your love**

**As You live in me**

**Lord renew my mind**

**As Your will unfolds in my life**

**In living every day**

**By the power of Your love**

Geoff Bullock

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May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,

Bring us to reign with him glory.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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