

South West Chelmsford Churches

“What Are We Waiting For?”

A Service for the First
Sunday in Advent



Advent comes from the Latin word ‘adventus’ which means ‘coming’.

We celebrate Advent for the 4 weeks running up to Christmas. It is a time of waiting and preparation. We get ready to celebrate Jesus coming as a baby 2000 years ago but it’s also a time where we remember that Jesus promises that He will come again and we reflect on our relationship with God and invite Him once again into our hearts and lives.

The Greeting

Our Lord says “I am coming soon!”

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Song – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

We Light the Advent Candle

Advent 1 – The Advent Hope

Jesus said, ‘Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.’

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

Opening Prayer

Alleluia, Jesus is coming

And as we wait for his birth
 Help us to get rid of distractions
 And allow the chaos to settle.
 Let us watch for the signs,
 And listen to the messengers.
 Let us stand on tiptoe,
 And shout aloud and sing.
 Something new is coming.
Lord Jesus , we wait for you.

We Say Sorry

For behaving just as we wish,
 without thinking of you;
 Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
 and think and say;
 Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
 by temptations in the world about us;
 Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to you;
 Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.
Amen.

We Receive God's Forgiveness

Almighty God,
 who in Jesus Christ has given us
 a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
 forgive *us our* sins,
 open *our* eyes to God's truth,
 strengthen *us* to do God's will

and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say together:

Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.

You are the God of our days,

we wait for you to come to us.

Amen.

Songs of Praise - Faithful One and Waiting Here for You

Readings

Talk

Song – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

What We Believe

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

At the end of each section we may say:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray as Jesus taught us

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 forever. Amen

We are Sent Out into the World

May starlight guide our steps towards this place of wonder

May angels sing their news as we travel to the manger

May promise fill these days as we watch and wait

and may faith tell us; Emmanuel, God is with us.

Amen

Our Lord says "I am coming soon!"

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

May the Lord, when he comes,

find us watching and waiting

Amen

Final Song – Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

**Thank you for joining us for worship today, we wish you every blessing for this
Advent Season**

Acknowledgements.

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