



Need for the Gospel

*“And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan!
The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!
Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” (Zech 3:2)*

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

**Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name!**

(Ps 117; 105:2-3a)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 135 (Sing Praise to the Lord God Almighty)

Sing praise to the
Lord God Almighty,
proclaim all His glory abroad.
O praise Him,
you servants appointed
to stand in the house of our God.
Give praise to the Lord
for His goodness;
how pleasant His praises to sing.
His people,
both chosen and precious,
your praises with gratitude bring.

I know that the Lord is almighty;
supreme in dominion is He,
performing His will
and good pleasure
in heaven, on the earth, in the sea.
His hand guides the clouds
in their courses;
the lightning flames forth
at His will.
The wind and the rain He releases
His sovereign designs to fulfil.

To ransom His people
from bondage,
great wonders and signs
He displayed.
He struck all the firstborn of Egypt,
till Pharaoh gave in and obeyed.
Great nations and kings
that opposed Him
all perished by God's mighty hand.
Their riches He gave to His people;
He made them the heirs
of the land.

The name of the Lord
stands forever,
through all generations
renowned.
The Lord brings relief to His people;
His mercies forever abound.
The idols of gold and of silver
can't speak, neither listen or see.
Their makers shall also be helpless;
like them shall their
worshipers be.

Praise God, every son,
every daughter;
in worship your gladness proclaim.
His servants, and all you
who fear Him,
sing praise to His glorious name.

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Confession and Assurance

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut 6:4-7)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” (Joel 2:12-13)

So we will confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour.
Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God, we are unworthy to come into your presence because of our many sins. We would not receive any grace or mercy from you if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you.

And yet, as we acknowledge our sins and offences, so we also acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favourable Father, to all who turn to you.

And so, we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your Son, to show us mercy, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age; by your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that not only the actions of our lives, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thoughts of our minds, may be guided and governed by you.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Knox’s Liturgy (IPC Book of Liturgy)

Assurance of Pardon

“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Eph 2:12-13)

Psalm 139 (O Lord You Have Searched Me)

O Lord You have searched me,
and You know my ways;
You perceive all my thoughts from afar.
Your hand is upon me wherever I go;
before I can speak, You already know

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
You are there;
If I rest on the far side of the sea,
Your love hems me in
both behind and before;*

*You have laid Your hand upon me;
You have laid Your hand upon me.*

Where can I flee
from Your presence, O Lord?
If I sleep in the depths,
You are there.
Your day will consume
all the shadows of night;
The dark cannot hide
from Your brilliant light.

Eric Grover, © 2001 Sovereign Grace

God's Word

First Reading: Heb 4:14-5:10, p. 1003

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents

**I lift up my eyes to the hills. From
where does my help come?**

My help comes from the LORD, who
made heaven and earth. He will not let
your foot be moved; he who keeps you
will not slumber.

**Behold, he who keeps Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is
your shade on your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor
the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he
will keep your life. The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in from
this time forth and forevermore.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age. Amen!**

Second Reading: Zech 3:1-10, p. 794

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Need for the Gospel (Mark Payne)

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am,
the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by His blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Saviour and my God,
with Christ my Saviour and my God.

*Charitie Bancroft, Vikki Cook
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The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

*"Honour the LORD with your wealth
and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring,
come and cheer,
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

J. M. Neale (1851)

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Notices for Calendars & Prayers

In the week...

Mon 8 th Dec	Fellowship Group	Ref Alan
Wed 10 th Dec	Fellowship Group	Ref Mark

Further ahead...

Sun 10 th Dec	Morning Worship (Psalm 126, "Joy in the Gospel")	10am
Tue 16 th Dec	Food & Chat	Ref Jenny
Sat 20 th Dec	Carol Service	5pm

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV). CCLI Licence: 731672.

Advent Series to Christmas

Today	Need for the Gospel (Zech 3:1-10)	10am
Sun 14 th Dec	Joy in the Gospel (Psalm 126)	10am
Sat 20 th Dec	Carol Service	<u>5pm</u>
Sun 21 st Dec	Peace of the Gospel (Zech 8:1-23)	10am
Thu 25 th Dec	Consummation of the Gospel (Zech 9:9-13)	<u>9:30am</u>

Need for the Gospel (Zech 3:1-10)

- Accused
- Cleansed
- Commissioned
- Blessed

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