



A Service of Morning Prayer for
The Second Sunday of Advent (6 Dec 2020)

A Prayer for Community

In this season of Advent, we gather together bringing our hopes and desires, our fears and our longings, for God's Light to shine forth ever brighter in our midst.

We pray that the dark places of the world might be lit by the gracious actions of your people; and that through music, prayer, and the breaking open of Scripture, we might be encouraged to be Christ's good news to the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed.

Lord Jesus, come soon!



Hymn 103: On Jordan's Banks, the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast
from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick stretch out thine
hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once
more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Territorial Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on the lands that we now call Canada; their relationship with the land was, and remains today, at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

**May the living Christ lead us
all on pathways of reconciliation and
peace.**



Confession & Absolution

A voice cries out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord.” So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips,
**And our mouth shall proclaim
your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

When the Lord comes, he shall find us
watching and waiting.
Lord Jesus, come soon!



Gloria (John Merbecke)

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace,
good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless
thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God,
heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy
upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the
world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the
right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon
us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art
most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

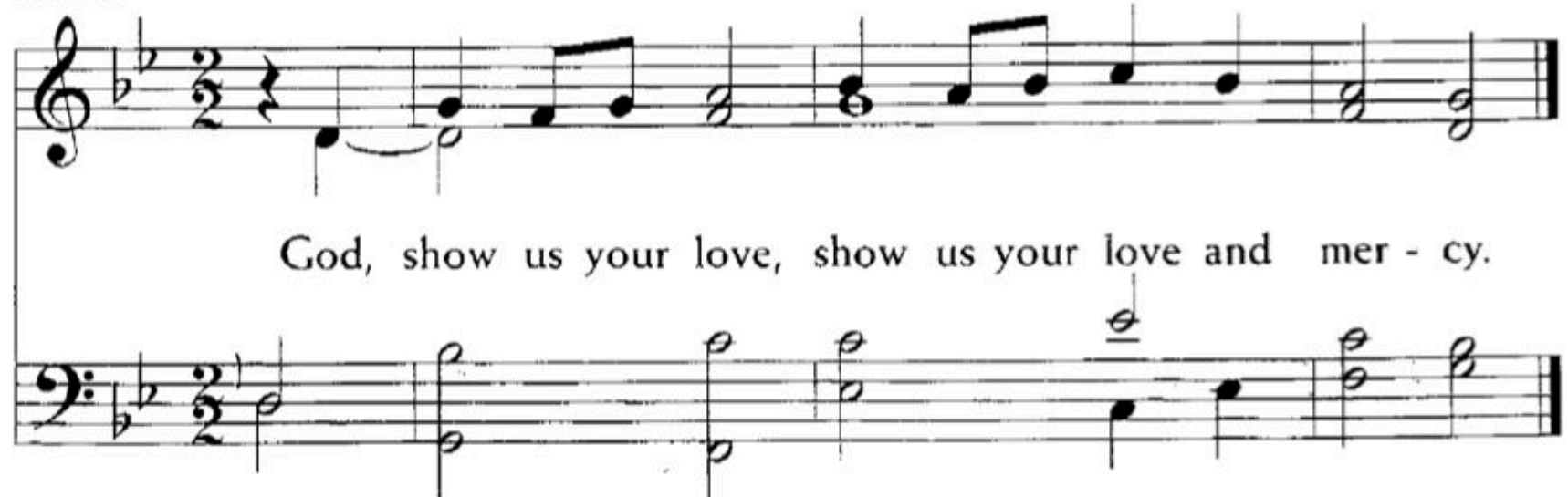


Psalm 85

Refrain

Hal H. Hopson 1988

Unison



God, show us your love, show us your love and mer - cy.

Once you were gracious to your land, O God,
you restored the fortunes of Jacob;

**You forgave the offences of your people,
and pardoned all their sin.**

You drew back all your displeasure, and tuned
back from your fiery wrath.

**Restore us again, God our Saviour, and put
away your just anger toward us.**

Will you be angry with us forever? Will you
prolong your wrath to all generations?

**Will you not revive us again, that your
people may rejoice in you.**

Refrain.

Let me hear what you will say, O God, for you
will speak peace to your people, to the faithful
who turn their hearts to you.

**Surely salvation is near those who fear
you , and your glory will dwell in the land.**
Mercy and faithfulness will meet, justice and
peace will embrace.

**Faithfulness will spring up forth from the
earth, and righteousness look down from
heaven.**

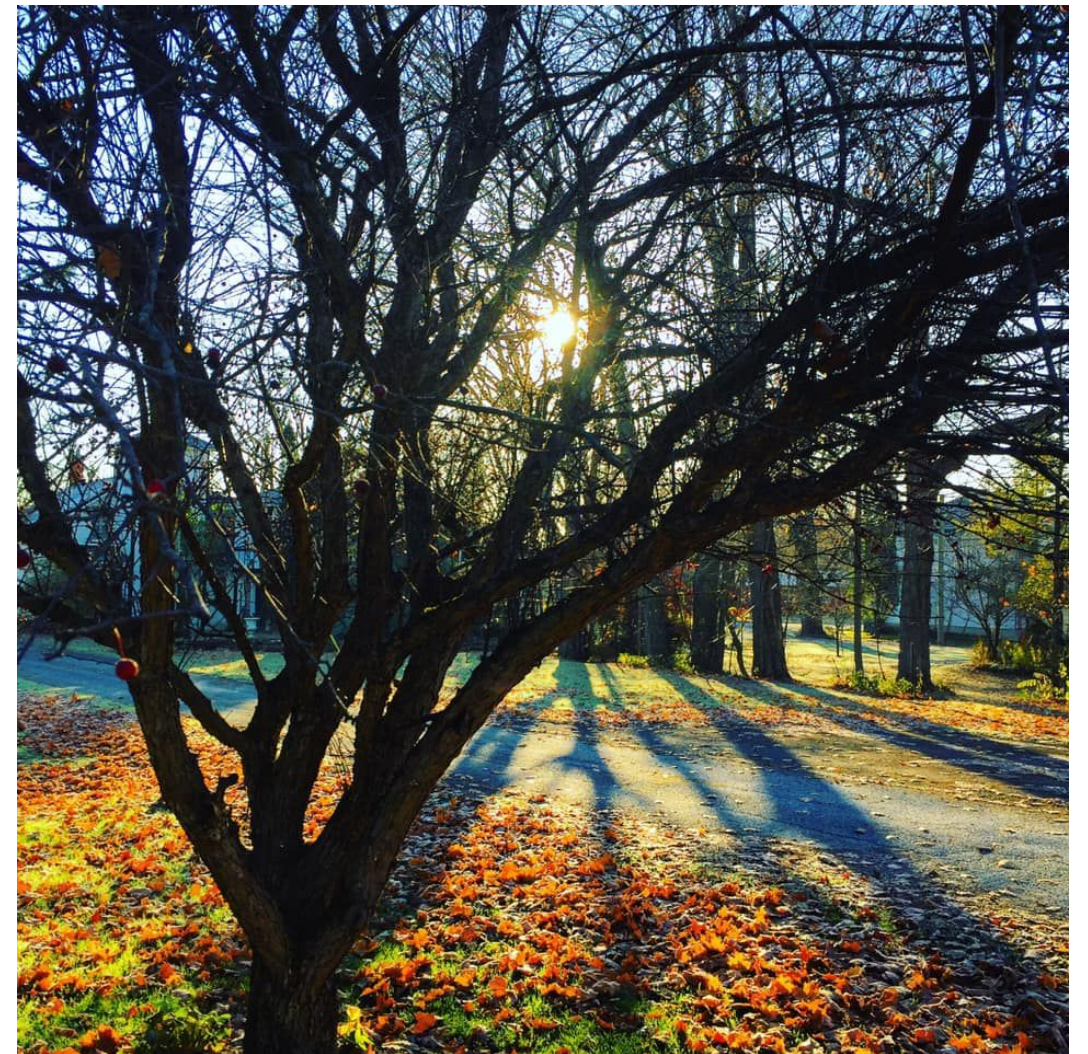
You, O God, will give what is good, and our land
will yield its harvest.

**Righteousness will go before you, and the
paths of your feet will be peace.**

Refrain.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.



The Advent of our King

(#470 Hymns Old and New)

1. The advent of our King our
prayers must now employ, and we
must hymns of welcome sing in
strains of holy joy.

2. The everlasting Son incarnate
deigns to be; himself a servant's
form puts on, to set his servants
free.

3. Daughter of Sion, rise to meet
thy lowly King; nor let thy faithful
heart despise the peace he comes
to bring.

4. As judge on clouds of light, he
soon will come again, and his true
members all unite with him in
heav'n to reign.

5. All glory to the Son, who comes
to set us free, with Father, Spirit,
ever One, through all eternity.



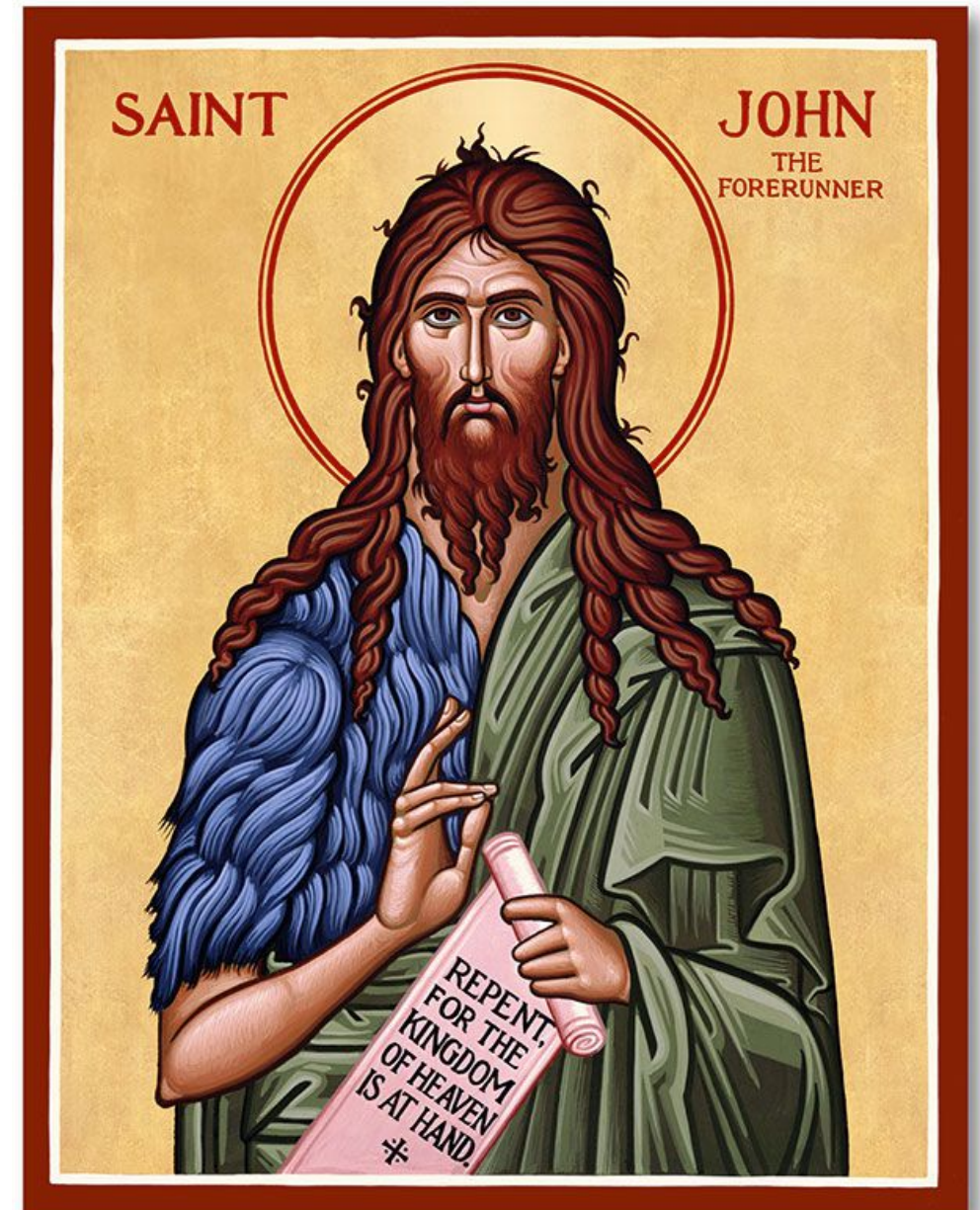
Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



The Sermon

Regional Archdeacon Tim Smart

Confession of Faith

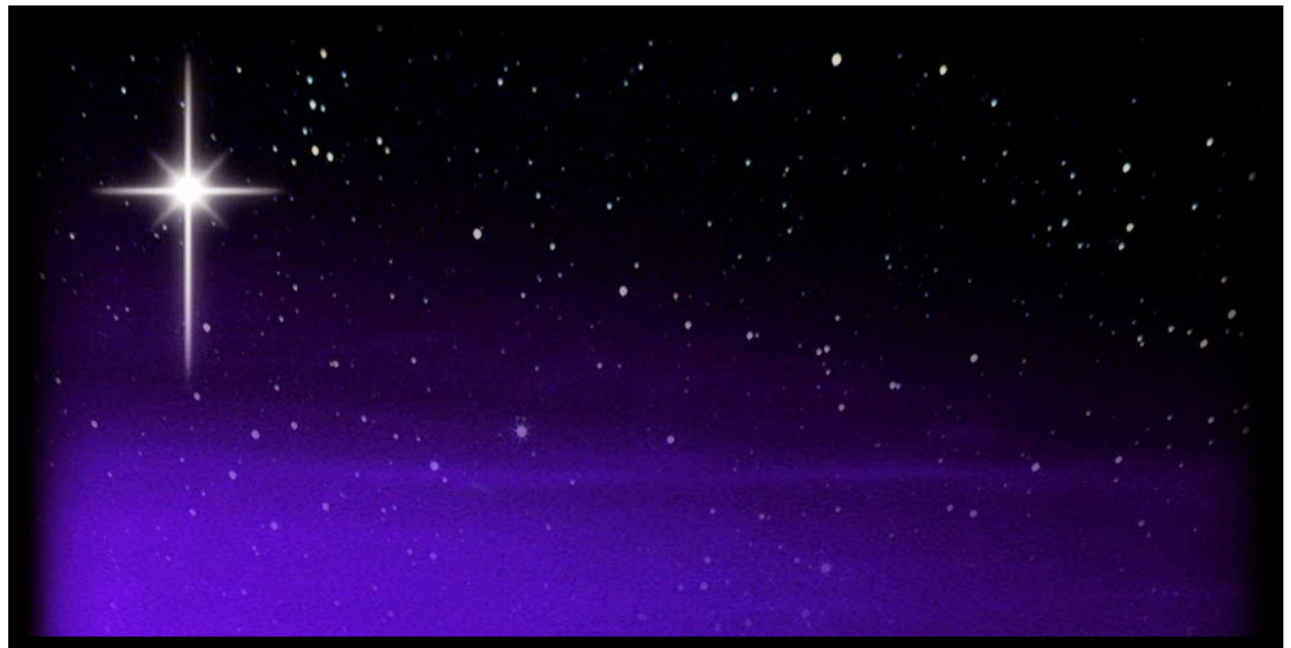
1. **We believe** in God the Father,
God Almighty by whose plan,
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary,
upon whom the Spirit came.

2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
'Till as judge he comes again.

3. We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
Saints of God in one
communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.



Prayers of the People

Led by the Rev. Deacon Judy Ball
(Mansonville)



Thanksgiving for 30 Years

Ministry

Gracious God we give you thanks as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ministry of Tim Smart, as incumbent to Grace Church in Sutton, and to the surrounding communities of Brome, Iron Hill, Foster, and Waterloo.

We thank you for the journey that started so many years ago — so many plans ago — and so many dreams ago. We celebrate all the joys that have been birthed in these 30 years together, all the happy times, all the accomplishments, and all the triumphs; as well as all the hardships, losses, and times of stress. God, we know that you are with us in everything.

We ask for your continued guidance in Tim's ongoing ministry, and for your ever-growing presence in all of our lives. And, we pray that we all may become beacons of Christ's light to a deeply hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



An Advent prayer for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

God of hope and love, today we stand somewhere between peace and joy, unsure where to find them in a world where women continue to be subject to violence because they are women, because they are Indigenous. Today it is hard for us to imagine the lamb and the lion together, to know that our hearts will rejoice at the arrival of justice. And yet we persevere. We remember, and we persevere.

Amen. Lord Jesus, come soon!



The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

Hymn 109: When the King shall come again

1. When the King shall come again,
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited!

2. In the desert, trees take root,
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration.
Rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning;
valleys, this is your new birth,
mountains, greet the morning!

3. Strengthen feeble hands
and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these,
seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping!

4. There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!

Blessing and Dismissal

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy, and keep you
safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be
with you this Advent day and always.
Amen.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us
watching and waiting.
Amen. Lord Jesus, come soon!

