

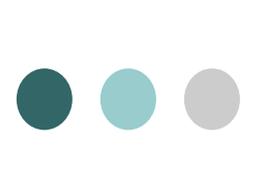
He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is love.

Sending Out

To a waiting world
hope from Christ.
To a troubled world
Peace from Christ.
To a searching world
love from Christ.

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



Morning Worship

Parish of Mundeford



3rd Sunday of Advent

The Promise of his Coming

Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The lighting of the Advent wreath

Third Sunday of Advent - LOVE

As we light the candles in our Advent Wreath we remember the preparations which God our Father made for the coming of his Son into the world.

On this third Sunday of Advent; we remember how John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Lord, the God of LOVE coming into the world

John said. ' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.'

Praise you, Lord

John promised, 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'

Praise you, Lord

As we light this candle we give thanks for the love of our God, for love which knows us, forgives us and heals; for love which delights in us and brings us back home; which knows the world's sorrow and stands with us there. Give us courage to live lives of love; bearing witness to God who makes all things whole. Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and forever. Amen

Call to worship

Love will felt around the world,
when the oppressed receive the Good News.

Love will break out around the world,

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 for ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, our Father you speak to us through your written word and through our consciences – above all in Jesus Christ your Son. He not only brought us in himself the good news, but through the Holy Spirit he speaks to us today. Be with us when we proclaim your love to a loveless world. Amen

OUR BLESSING

God himself, our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ direct our ways together. The Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other. The Lord strengthen our hearts in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

HYMN

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater son.
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun.
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Creed: Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe and trust
in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.
We believe and trust in God the Son, who took
our human nature, died for us and rose again.
We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes
Christ known in the world.
This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust
in one God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Our Prayers of Intercession

As our Saviour has taught us so we pray,

when the broken-hearted are given support.

Love will be celebrated around the world,
When those held captive know freedom.

Love will be experienced around the world,
**When the everlasting love of God finds expression and
purpose in worship.**

Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of
God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive
assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to
speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives. In our
prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for oth-
ers as well as for ourselves, and we offer our lives anew in
Christ's service.

All this we do because we believe in the presence among us
of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Confession

It takes a person like John the Baptist to call us to
repentance.

**It's hard to listen to those whose words come too close to
home.**

John came from a desert place and wore unusual clothes.

**It's hard to listen or pay attention to those who look or
speak differently from ourselves.**

John was direct; he called on the people of his day to turn
their ways around, to repent.

**It's hard to face up to your faults and failings, and tread a
new path.**

John was sure that the way to repentance lay in Jesus Christ,
Chosen One of God.

**Jesus speaks hard words in the Gospel, words that remind
us of the cost of discipleship.**

Silence

God calls us to serve, forgives us in Christ,
And renews us by the Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Collect

**God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Bap-
tist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to
speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the
cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24

At the end of the reading

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN:

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL: *John 1: 6-8, 19-28*