



No Service at 8am

10am An Advent Choral Sequence, 'Looking for Light'

A sequence of readings, prayers, hymns and choral music for Advent Sunday

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. **Come to Church** All are welcome!
2. **Join [Zoom](#) on your computer**

When signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (ID: 927 480 8728 / Passcode: 889123).

3. **Join with Audio Zoom via phone**

a) Call **0131 460 1196** b) Enter Meeting ID then #, then enter Meeting Passcode then #

Please come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the WCC after the 10am service.

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A Psalm for today, Psalm 97

Refrain: You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side. **[R]**

His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.

The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory. **[R]**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols.

Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced,

because of your judgements, O Lord.

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. **[R]**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name. **[R]**

Most high and holy God, enthroned in fire and light, burn away the dross of our lives and kindle in us the fire of your love, that our lives may reveal the light and life we find in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Gospel reading for today, John 3. 16-21

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Come and share our short session for children and young people during our Sunday 10am service EVERY WEEK!

We invite children of all ages, with their adults, to come into the Lady Chapel during part of the service, and share in A Godly Play (a short visual storytelling of scriptures, with wondering questions, stories, crafts, puzzles, and even some acting for those that want ... for all ages to



Last week we heard about the good news for Joseph, and made trumpets to shout the good news; as we learned and were assured that God is always with us.

share together; then various age related activities). We also have an older group breakout session on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. **This week we continue a our series Good news for Everyone, as we approach Advent:** How will we demonstrate that the good news is for all people and all nations?

Our [Children & Young People](#) website page has loads of activities to help young people get to know the person of Jesus.

We are delighted to announce the recommencement of our young person's choir – If your child is 7 or over and interested in joining, please contact Nathan Collins (stmichaelsbdsdom@gmail.com) We will also be starting choral and organ scholarships for our young people and welcome the support of those who would like to help contribute to these.



The church is open each day, from early morning to mid afternoon.

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

Holy Communion at 8am – Forthcoming services at 8am will be **this Sunday 3rd December then 24th December, and 7th January.**

Travelling Crib – Once again we are delighted that our travelling crib will be making its way around the parish during Advent; beginning with a blessing at the 10am service this Sunday 3rd December. Hosting the figures for a night is a wonderful chance to share with children the anticipation of Christ's birth and fellowship with other families as the crib is passed on ... and a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent. Please chat to Katharine if you'd like to sign up for a night, **we still have seven spaces!**

Advent and Christmas Services at St Michael's – [All details are on our website](#) and on flyers in the Publicity Area but note our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on Sunday 17th December, Holy Communion at 8am, Crib Service at 3:30pm and Midnight Service at 11pm (with Choir Carols from 10:30pm) on Christmas Eve. We'll celebrate Parish Communion at 10am on Christmas Day.

TLC Tuesday 5th December, 2:15pm for 2:30pm, WCC – An opportunity to join in with tea and talk and a regular 10/15 minute presentation on wide ranging interests. Later in the afternoon we welcome families after school for a short while, to share in reading/play and enjoy a biscuit/cake/fruit snack. Do come along...and tell your friends too! This month, our speaker is June Milne who is a volunteer for UK-Aid: Felsted Aid for Deprived Children, which supports victims of Chernobyl and the Russian invasion.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 6th December, 10am – A service of Holy Communion, in church. Refreshments after the service will be held in the WCC.

Tiny Tots, Wednesday 6th December, 11 for 11:15am Worship for babies/toddlers and their grown-ups; with a story, singing and instruments for little ones too! Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a chance for the children to play beforehand in the WCC, if you can. **We gather in the WCC and walk across to the Lady Chapel for worship.**

Prayers for our Community, Saturday 9th December, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer. All welcome.

Carol Singing with the Town Band Friday 15th December, 12noon-2pm – Meet in Jackson Square at the top of the travelator. A great fundraising event for Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre.

MU Advent Service, Great St Mary's, 19th December, 2pm – Great St Mary's Mothers' Union branch would like to invite MU members to their service in Sawbridgeworth, followed by light Christmas refreshments in Church House.

The next St Albans Cursillo Weekend will be from 16th-18th February 2024, at Pleshey. Cursillo is a movement within the Anglican church which provides a framework for Christians to grow in their faith through prayer, study and action and assists them to share their faith with others. Many members of St Michael's find this helpful, and If you would like to know more, please get in touch with John Emmett (07773 528835)

Greetings Cards for sale – There is a wide range of cards on display in the Charnley Hall. Rosemary keeps them topped up regularly and they now include good value Christmas cards (raising funds for the work of the Charities Support Group).

Giant Christmas Card – Once again the Giant Christmas Card will give everyone the chance to send Christmas Greetings to their St Michael's friends, and instead of incurring postal charges making a donation to The Children's Society. The card will be displayed in the Publicity Area on Sundays and Wednesdays from this Sunday. Very many thanks for your support.

Charities Support Group Advent Red Bucket appeal – This year we're supporting two local charities: Care4Calais Stansted and Holy Trinity Winter Night Shelter. Further details about donating by bank transfer can be found [via our website CSG Page](#). Care4Calais Stansted is a group of volunteers who support asylum seekers, accommodated in two hotels in villages close to Bishop's Stortford. 100% of donations received is spent on basic supplies such as clothes, shoes, toys and baby equipment. We support the Holy Trinity shelter every winter and they are open overnight from the end of November. The Shelter are in need of more volunteers including evenings and lunchtimes. Please contact Dave Perry via htnsmanager@outlook.com If you'd like to know more you could also see Val Ashwood, Margaret Fox or Angela Weeks. Similarly, if you'd like to know more about Care4Calais, please chat to Alison Jordan.

Salvation Army's Christmas Toy appeal – Please [see the poster on our website](#) or in the Publicity Area for more information about donating to the appeal.

Food Bank Plea – Increased costs of living continue to hit foodbanks hard. Do consider whether you can donate: details on our [website](#) and church noticeboard.

Details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

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