

# Tuesday 1st December

The Rev'd Jackie Bellfield

*"Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring"*

## Readings

Psalm 72

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 10:21-24

During recent times there is an increased usage of postal services and couriers. On arrival the deliverer seeks proof of the item being deposited in the right place (though we did have a parcel left outside in the rain—the note inside said “the side porch” was. Proof of delivery required to ensure the item arrived safely—photos taken on doorsteps—all the proof they need.

Isn't it amazing how God recorded the intention, delivery and effect of the incarnation.

In this season of Advent we begin to explore how God comes to us and of how God recorded supremely the act of redemptive love. We think and remember God's first coming into human history in the birth of Jesus. That God comes in the present moment and that God will come again.

Sometimes we long for God so much as the needs of our lives and the world press upon us. Life's demands and the expectations of others can overwhelm us and we seek for God in it all. At the start of Advent what do you hope for? Do you seek a deeper understanding of God?. This season reminds us that our God is a God who comes to those who wait.

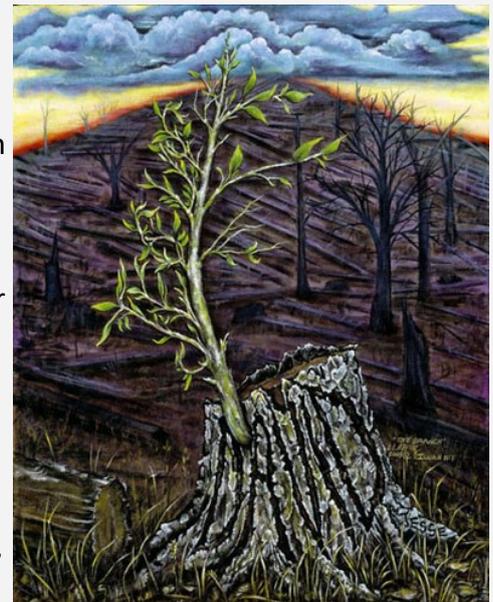
“A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.” On the whole we do not expect growth from stumps—they are dry, barren and rootless. We dig them up and throw them away. But we have probably all seen a tree stump sprouting new life, new growth in defiance of the axe.

When we feel discouraged and empty, cut down and squashed may we remember that new shoots are always possible even from the most barren of situations.

And for this growth roots are critical. Our roots are critical. This Advent let us care for our roots, feeding off the good soil of prayer and the written word as we wait to celebrate the arrival of the living word.

This living word arrived in the most ordinary of situations. Was he the only baby born in Bethlehem? Were the holy family the only family without room for the night? For all but his final three years, Jesus was content with an “ordinary” life. Learning a skill, being a good family member, learning about his

religious heritage—his roots. But it is impossible to believe that in this ordinariness Jesus did not find the presence of God. We too, can catch glimpses of God in the ordinariness of our own lives.



## Tuesday 1st

### 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 every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee  
Day-spring from on high appear  
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse  
Of Thy birth we long to hear  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News glad tidings of a birth  
Go to him your praises bringing  
Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness  
He whose glories knew no end  
By his life he brings us gladness  
Our Redeemer Shepherd Friend  
Leaving riches without number  
Born within a cattle stall  
This the everlasting wonder  
Christ was born Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
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

Charles Wesley

### Prayer

Come thou long expected Jesus into the parts of my life  
hidden to others.

Come into the barren and hurting places. Come into the dry places  
that need refreshing by the outpouring of your love.

When I lack love and compassion, change me.

When I am impatient and frustrated, deliver me.

When I fail to see the goodness, help me to focus on you, the  
author and perfecter of my faith.

**Amen**

*Come thou long expected Jesus*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=vRAFQCOKjgE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRAFQCOKjgE)



We pray for those who live,  
work and socialise with.  
May the hope of Advent be  
present in our  
conversations and actions  
with others.



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