

Sunday 29th November—Advent 1

The Rev'd Heather Cooper

Readings

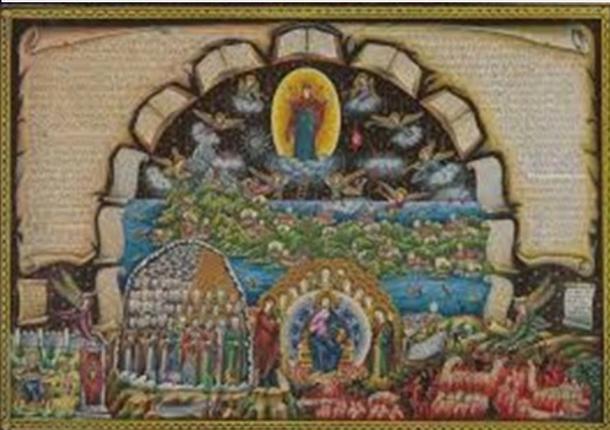
Acts 1:9-11

*“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.”*

Once again we come to the season of Advent - a season of hope, of waiting, of journeying, and this year a season with a difference. Advent begins with hope and with a promise. A promise that as we prepare for the birth of Christ we live in the knowledge that Christ will come again.

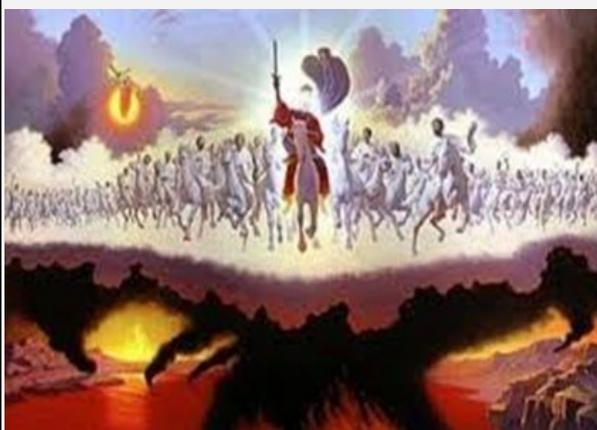
After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

Look at these two images - one a traditional icon, the other a contemporary image, both images of the return of Christ.



As you look at them think about how they make you feel.

Do they stimulate your imagination?
Do they fill you with a sense of anticipation?
What do they say to you about the return of Christ?



It matters that Advent begins with the anticipation of the return of Christ. This is the belief that sustains us throughout life - all the ups and downs. This is the hope that reminds us that God is in charge, no matter what is happening in the world around us.

There is hope. There is light.

You may wish to light a candle and use it as a focus as you read or listen to the hymn and as you pray.

Sunday 29th - Advent 1

*Lo he comes with clouds
descending*

<https://youtu.be/0cHmPHCljY8>



Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

Charles Wesley

We pray for those who seek
to bring the hope of God's
kingdom to others in our
community, our churches and
the world.

 YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches
New Song Wirral



Wirral Methodist Churches
New Song Wirral



Prayer

Lord, forgive us when we doubt your voice,
forgive our unreadiness to receive you,
make us attentive to your word and help
us prepare your way.
Your way in our hearts and your way in
the lives of others. **Amen**

