

## Sunday 20th—Advent 4

### Rev'd Sheila Prest

#### Readings

Genesis 1:1-5

Jeremiah 23:5-8

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*He has come, He has come*  
*He Has come, He has come*

Here we are on the last Sunday of Advent and we look forward to celebrating the Coming of God's Son into the world on Christmas Day. The Prince of Peace, the offspring of Mary, whose name would be called Jesus, who would save his people from their sins. Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

In our reading today we have a prime example of **FAITH**. Joseph showed great faith in standing by his wife to be and it is that faith even under the most challenging of circumstances which stands out in this reading today. Yes, Mary's faith and role are pivotal and can never be undermined but it is often Joseph's steadfastness that goes unnoticed.

We have all been caught up in in a global pandemic which has brought the nations to its knees. Have we managed to keep the faith? No doubt we have found ourselves in challenging circumstances like Joseph. Hindsight is a wonderful thing and we can now view Joseph's decision to follow the advice of the angel as a simple thing and dismiss it as just a part of the story.

Did we ever believe back in March and April that a vaccine would come to our rescue by the spring of 2021?

Keeping the faith is a challenge when you can't see into the future but that is what we are called to do. For God will never leave our sides and never forsake us. Till we meet again stay safe and keep the faith.



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O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give us victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

He has come, He has come  
He Has come, He has come  
He has come, He has come

Rejoice! Rejoice!, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

### Prayer

Almighty God  
Give us grace to receive your Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
And to believe in His name  
May we be granted to abide in your steadfast love  
And be steadfast in faith  
That we may evermore rejoice in your salvation  
May His light lighten our daily path of life  
Which we travel and may Christmas be for us one of lasting joy  
and peace

We ask these prayers Through your Son who lives and reigns  
with you And the Holy Spirit, One God, World without end.  
Amen

O Come O Come Immanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FuFtOFvTsM>

We remember those seeking a place of acceptance in our town, churches and streets.

We pray for all who feel judged and ignored by others. We pray for our churches and our call to spread the gospel to all people.



YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral



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