

# **QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH**

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

**DECEMBER 2020**

### **Week 2 – Rushing towards Christmas**

**Leader:** Advent, winter days of longing. Hoping for justice, yearning for light.

You come with warm tears and laughter, telling the truth, sharing our lives.

Thank you, thank you for Advent, thank you for mystery, thank you for life.

### **Opening Responses**

Come, Christ come

**COME WITH YOUR WORD**

Come Sophia, come

**COME WITH YOUR WISDOM**

Come, Jesus, come

**COME WITH YOUR PLAYFULNESS**

Come, Mary, come

**INSPIRE US WITH YOUR YES**

**Perhaps read an Advent hymn here**

**Read:** Psalm 24

## **Prayer**

Loving God,

In this season of excitement and weariness open our hearts to your presence. We know that you meet us and hold us:

in and beyond the busyness

in and beyond the glitter

in and beyond the rush.

When we are tired and frayed, when we lose sight of what it's all about, when we put ourselves first, and forget that you come to bring love, come close and restore us and forgive us, we pray.

Hear us as we pray in your Son's words, saying:

## **OUR FATHER**

### **As with madness (this can be sung to As with Gladness)**

As with madness we prepare

For this festive time of year,

As we rush and count the days,

Advent passes in a haze,

So may our feet take us to

Places where we will meet you.

As with madness we collapse

In our armchairs to have naps,

As we eat too much and then

Fill our plates right up again,

So may we enjoy this feast,

Prompted now to share at least.

As with madness we keep on  
Trying to ignore your Son,  
Timely God now takes a risk,  
Bawling babe now shakes a fist,  
So may each of us now see  
Christ has come to set us free.

**Read:** Luke 1 verses 26 - 38

**Reflection –**

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

Today's discussion might be about:

The ways in which our preparation for Christmas might be different this year.

As Church people, are we just as guilty as everyone else of putting other aspects of Christmas before Jesus?

**OR** it might be about the Gospel passage. The choice is the leader's!

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence

**Prayer**

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and in particular how we are continuing to be the Church in

the circumstances in which we are currently living; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

We have heard the words of prophets.

**MAY WE RECOGNISE GOD'S TRUTH**

We have heard the words of angels

**MAY WE RECOGNISE GOD'S JOY**

We have heard the words of promise

**MAY WE RECOGNISE GOD'S LOVE**

**AND SO MAY GOD BLESS US,**

**MYSTERY OF CREATION, CHILD IN THE MANGER, HOLY  
SPIRIT OF GLORY,**

**AND MAY WE WELCOME, AND WALK IN, THE  
PROMISES OF GOD. AMEN.**