

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

DECEMBER 2021

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 in our land and for our own congregations of Dalmeny and

Queensferry; 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.**