

Putnoe Heights & St. Mark's Church



A Partnership of the Church of England and the Methodist Church
at both churches

Advent Parade and Gift Service Sunday 7 December 2003

Welcome and Notices

Verse of Scripture

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Luke Chapter 3

Opening Prayer

Minister: We will praise the name of the Lord
ascribe greatness to our God.

Lord open our lips:

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Minister: Praise the Lord

All: The Lord's name be praised

All: God in heaven, in you is the fullness of light, wisdom and goodness. You give us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts and minds, you give us Jesus the most wonderful gift, now by your grace draw us ever closer to you that we might know your presence in our lives this Christmas time.



Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

(A person lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope)

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

(A person lights Second Candle, the Candle of Peace)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Hymn 85 H&P

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 them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Confession

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sins to God, seeking his mercy and forgiveness.

Holy and forgiving God, we have sinned against you and each other, in thought and word and deed. We have turned from your life-giving word, and ignored the message of those you sent. We are unprepared for the advent of your Son. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, that strengthened by your love we may serve you more faithfully through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (790 MP *We sing twice*)

You are the King of glory, You are the Prince of Peace,
You are the Lord of heaven and earth,
You're the Son of righteousness.
Angels bow down before You, worship and adore,
for You have the words of eternal life,
You are Jesus Christ the Lord.
Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the King of kings!
Glory in the highest heaven,
for Jesus the Messiah reigns!

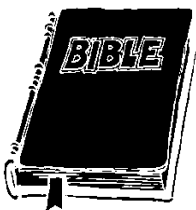
The Offering (*Including the STARR Smartie Tubes please.*)

Thank you to those people who have already made their offering by standing order through the bank. Thank you also to those people who covenant their giving or help the church by using envelopes for their gift. If you are a tax payer please do use one of the envelopes provided in the church this morning. By signing your name we can claim back lots more money directly from the Inland Revenue.

All: Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Christmas Nativity

This will be performed by the children of Sunday School at Putnoe Heights Church and pre-school at St Mark's Church



The Bible Readings

(These readings may be followed on your bible notes)

God of holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, world without end. Amen.

After the reading

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn (83 H&P)

- 1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?*

- 2 God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
God will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

- 3 Mary hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected,

- 4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!*

The Address

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman

Hymn (162 MP)

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served, but to serve,
And give Your life, that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now, to follow Him,
To bring our lives, as a daily offering
Of worship to, the Servant King.*

- 2 There in the garden, of tears,
My heavy load, he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow, was torn,
'Yet not My will, but Yours,' He said.
- 3 Come see His hands, and His feet,
The scars that speak, of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars, into space
To cruel nails, surrendered.
- 4 So let us learn, how to serve,
And in our lives, enthrone Him;
Each other's needs, to prefer,
For it is Christ, we're serving.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses.
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn (204 MP)

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

- 2 He comes, with succour speedy,
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

- 3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth;
Before him, on the mountains,
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

- 4 Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever,
His changeless name of Love.

Blessing

May God the Father who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to come among us in great humility, open your eyes to look for his coming again. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Guidance by St. Benedict

O gracious and Holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive Thee,
diligence to seek Thee,
patience to wait for Thee,
eyes to behold Thee,
a heart to meditate upon Thee,
and a life to proclaim Thee;
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

