



Kelso
Country
Churches

Order of service

Sunday November 28th, 2021

Conducted by Stephen Manners

The time is coming

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‘The Lord said, “The time is coming when I will fulfil the promise that I made to the people of Israel and Judah.”
Jeremiah 33.14

Welcome and lighting of the first advent candle

Prayer

As we light this Advent candle, may its flame be for us a sign of hope; may its warmth be a symbol of God’s love for us; and may it inspire us to be hope bearers – people of compassion and integrity, as we gather in the name of Jesus who is the light of the world. **Amen.**

273 O come, O come Emmanuel Prayer including Lord’s prayer

Jeremiah 33.14-16 The Lord said, "The time is coming when I will fulfill the promise that I made to the people of Israel and Judah. 15 At that time I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. That king will do what is right and just throughout the land. 16 The people of Judah and of Jerusalem will be rescued and will live in safety. The city will be called "The Lord Our Salvation."

Thoughts on reading from Jeremiah

*Lets continue in our reflection as we listen to this song by Graham Kendrick,
The candle song*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teZaQUKjx24>

Luke 21.25-36 "There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid

of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. 26 People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. 27 Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. 28 When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near." 29 Then Jesus told them this parable: "Think of the fig tree and all the other trees. 30 When you see their leaves beginning to appear, you know that summer is near. 31 In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the Kingdom of God is about to come. 32 "Remember that all these things will take place before the people now living have all died. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 "Be careful not to let yourselves become occupied with too much feasting and drinking and with the worries of this life, or that Day may suddenly catch you 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all people everywhere on earth. 36 Be on watch and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man."

One of the lectionary readings for today is Psalm 25. This song we are going to listen to now is based on that Psalm. **Teach me your ways**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76yjGMeTW5o&t=8s>

Reflection

277 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

Offering prayer (please remain standing)

Intimations

Prayers of intercession

472 Come thou long expected Jesus

Benediction

Let us go in hope,
live by hope,
and be signs of hope
for all to see.

Jeremiah 33.14-16, Luke 21.25-36

Both readings speak of the faithfulness of God. The prophet Jeremiah announces that the God who is faithful to the promises he made to his people will send them a king like David. In Luke's Gospel, all God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus, the Lord of life. What he said and did will never lose its power to keep hope alive.

Jeremiah was a prophet who lived through one of the most disruptive periods of Jewish history, including the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC and the Babylonian exile. He is an honest and optimistic companion for those in a time of crisis. In the midst of destruction and despair, he prophesies that hope will come in the form of David (v.15), who would become Israel's greatest king.

The Gospel contains a series of Jesus' apocalyptic sayings based on Mark 13, but in Luke's Gospel, they have a different flavour. In this 'little apocalypse', Jesus warns of the wars, famines, natural disasters and persecution of Christians that will follow the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. He talks about the unravelling of creation (v.25), as if Genesis 1 is being reversed. It is a catastrophic end-of-the-world scenario. However, Jesus is not just a prophet of doom and there is ultimately hope. The coming of the 'Son of Man', a reference to both the vision in Daniel 7.9-14, and Jesus' own resurrection, is a message of reassurance to those that keep the faith in troubled times.

In Luke 21.34 Jesus warns against using alcohol and physical pleasures as a release from anxiety and uses the sprouting fig tree as a sign of hope. In difficult times, Christians are encouraged to stay alert, to pray (v.36), and to put their trust in God, so that even if they are surrounded by disaster, they will not be swamped.

What tangible signs of hope does the Church, our church, show in today's world where so many people, even in our own country, are still marginalised and misunderstood. What signs of hope can we share in this time of Advent, waiting for the birth of our Saviour?

Intimations

Tea and coffee through in the hall after the service

Next Sunday we will be worshipping in Makerstoun Church at 10.30am

And on Sunday 12th of December when we are once more worshipping here in Stichill we will celebrate the sacrament of communion together once more. It will be done in a slightly different way from what we are used to. The elements will be placed in the pews ready for us to eat and drink together.

The Guild invites you to a Christmas Social afternoon to be held in Stichill Church on 8th December at 2.30pm. Jim Smith will give a presentation on the Sights and Sounds of India, followed by a festive tea. This is an open meeting for the congregation and it would be helpful if you can let Sophia or Lynda know how many are coming for catering and seating purposes.

We wait, but don't always find it easy to wait,
and for that we are sorry.
We confess our impatience and our lack of attention
to the journey and its signposts.
Teach us that preparation is part of the journey
and that the journey is part of the gift.
You offer us a way to follow, a path to tread,
a journey that leads to hope, to joy, to trust and to love,
and we confess we do not always follow.
Now, may we step into this Advent as faithful people,
seeking forgiveness and trying to follow your path,
and believing you will be walking with us every step of the way. **Amen.**

