

# A Patchwork of Hope



A service of worship for Advent

**busbridgechurch** 

## **Opening Prayer**

God of our deepest longing,  
All our hopes are met in you.

You hear our heart's cry,  
You know our deepest need.

Meet us in this place,

Speak to us through the silence, touch us with your healing love,

That we may share your hopes for the whole of creation;

In and through Jesus, the child who is to come.

**Amen**

## **Advent Reflection One: Voices of failing hope**

Reflection space: do bring a darker shaded button up to the table as we reflect on times in our lives when hope can seem faint.

The music group will play:

Domine, Domine, dona nobis pacem  
(Lord, Lord, grant us peace)

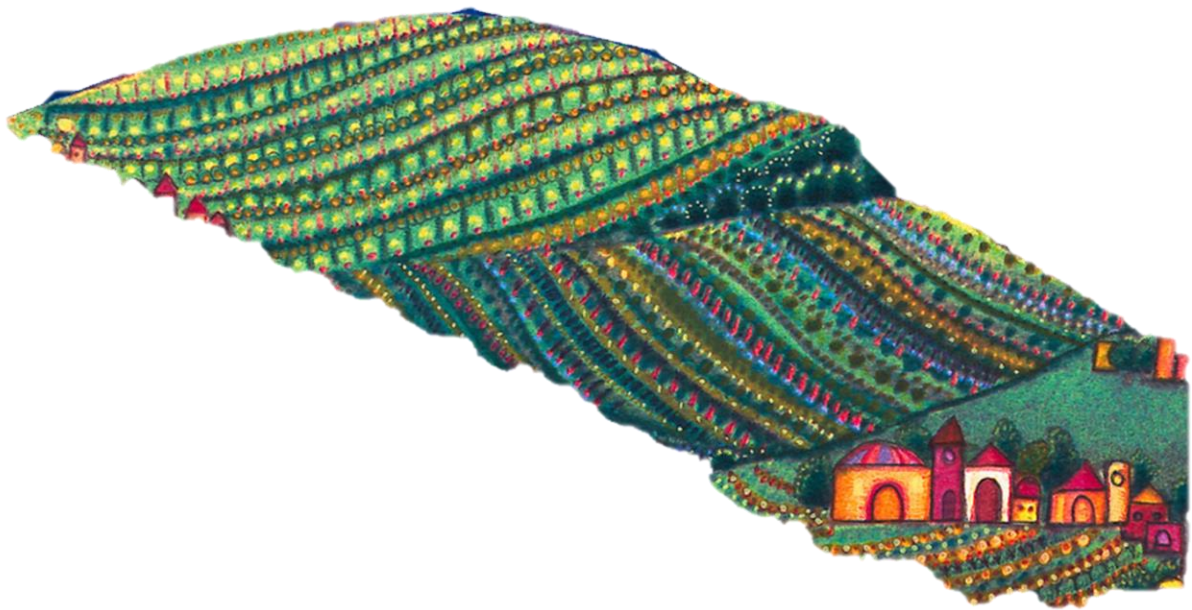


We bring to God all that feels hopeless in us,  
our disappointments, our regrets.  
We come in the knowledge of God's assurances,  
for us and for all creation.

"There is surely a future hope for you,  
and your hope will not be cut off," Proverbs 23.18

No one who hopes in you  
**need ever be without hope.**

### **Advent Reflection Two: Voices of faithful hope**



Reflection space

"... blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him." Jeremiah 17.7

The music group will play: My Soul Proclaims

My soul proclaims  
The greatness of the Lord  
And my spirit sings  
For joy to my Saviour God  
His lowly slave  
He looked upon in love  
They will call me happy now  
For mighty are the works  
He has done and holy is His name

In every age  
For those who fear the Lord  
Come His mercy  
And the strength of His mighty arm  
He routs the proud  
Throws monarchs off their thrones  
While he lifts the lowly high  
Fills hungry souls with food  
And the rich sends empty away

To Israel His servant He brings help  
And the promise to our fathers  
Is now fulfilled  
For Christ has come according to His word  
And the mercy that He showed to Abraham  
Is now for His children's  
Children evermore.

Lord, forgive our failing hope.  
Hope of the world,  
as you called Mary beyond her hopes and dreams,  
may we respond with her:  
**Let it be with me according to your word.**

No one who hopes in you  
**need ever be without hope.**

## **Advent Reflection Three: Voice of God's hope**

Reflection space: do bring a brighter shaded button up to the table as we reflect on the hopes and dreams which bring light to our lives.

Listen to these words from Psalm 52: 5 -6

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I  
will not be shaken."

The music group will play: **My Peace**

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:  
trouble not your hearts.

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:  
Be not afraid.



We bring to God all that is hopeful in us,  
our dreams and aspirations.

For ourselves, for those whom we love,  
and those we may never know.

For your creation.

We hold our hopes in the light of your promises.

No one who hopes in you  
**need ever be without hope.**



## **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

O come, O come Emmanuel.

**Come Lord Jesus.**

We dare to light a light of hope despite the darkness of the world.  
A world in which oppression and inequality can make us feel helpless  
and hopeless,

**We dare to hope.**

With the prophets of old,

**We dare to hope.**

As we listen once again to the story of a child born in obscurity and  
danger,

**We dare to hope.**

O come, O come Emmanuel.

**Come Lord Jesus.**

**Reading:** Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

**Reflection on Hope**

**Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
Who mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God draws near

Rejoice rejoice  
Emmanuel shall come to you  
O Israel

O come true Branch of Jesse free  
Your children from this tyranny  
From depths of hell Your people save  
To rise victorious from the grave

O come bright Daybreak come and cheer  
Our spirits by Your advent here  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb

O come strong 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 great Lord of might  
Who long ago on Sinai's height  
Gave all your tribes the ancient law  
In cloud and majesty and awe

## **Prayers**

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us**

Come, God- for-us,  
Who whispers in our ears that we – each of us -  
Are beloved children.

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us**

Come, God-under-us  
Who cradles us in arms that never grow weary;  
Whose lap has room enough for all.

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us**

Come, God -over-us,  
Who watches in the long silence of the night,  
That we might rest in peace.

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us,**

Come, God-beside-us,  
Who steadies us when we falter,  
Who lifts us up when we fall.

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us,**

Come, God-behind-us,  
Who picks up all the faded dreams we drop along the way  
and patchworks them into hope.



O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us,**

O Come O Come Emmanuel,  
**Come, God with us,**  
**And we shall rejoice forever.**

(Adapted from a poem by Thom M Shuman)

**Lord's Prayer** (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

**Eternal Spirit**

**Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer,  
Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all.**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven.**

**The hallowing of your name echoes  
Through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by  
the peoples of the earth!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Collect**

**Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

## **Closing Hymn: Tell Out My Soul**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His Word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forevermore!



## **Closing prayer**

**Bright star maker God,  
Travel with us through Advent**

**Shine into our dark corners  
Lead us in the ways of justice.**

**Warm us with love and wonder  
Bring us to new birth.**

**Amen**

## **Dismissal**

Romans 15.13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit."



For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given.