**24 November** **The Sunday before Advent**

**Jesus: King in the Manger**

**Be still!** **Hymn 325**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

**The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all **and also with you**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Saying sorry**

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against you;**  
**we have broken your commandments;**  
**we have often been selfish,**  
**and we have not loved you as we should.**  
**For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:**  
**through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Forgiveness**

**John 18:33-37**

*The service leader says:*

Let us hear the word of the Lord.  
**So may the light of God's presence shine into our hearts.**

A reading from John chapter 18 beginning at verse 33:

33. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34. Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” 35. Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” 36. Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37. Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**I'm gonna jump up and down** **Thanks & Praise 62**

I'm gonna jump up and down, I'm gonna spin right around,  
I'm gonna praise your name forever.  
I'm gonna shout out loud, I'm gonna deafen the crowd,  
I'm gonna send my praise to heaven.

I will run this race and I will never stop.  
I'll follow Jesus till the day I drop.  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
When you've got such a lot, when you've got not a lot,  
what? Be happy!

**Children's Talk** :**The King of Truth *from the Manger***

**My Lighthouse**

**1** In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

**2** In the silence, You won't let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

*Refrain*  
**My Lighthouse, my lighthouse**  
**Shining in the darkness, I will follow You**  
**My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (oh oh)**  
**I will trust the promise,**  
**You will carry me** **safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh) x3**  
**Safe to shore**

**3** I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are my light

*Refrain*

**4** Fire before us, You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms  
repeat x4

*Refrain*

**Declaring Faith**

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers**

We pray, first, for people who teach, that they may always teach the truth

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to live among us and to be our teacher.  
Thank you that he was never afraid to tell the truth.  
Help everyone who teaches, in schools, in colleges, in churches and through media.  
Help them stick to the truth, rather than invent lies.  
Help them believe the truth, even though people mock them for doing so.  
And help the people they teach to understand what is true, and believe it.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the Truth we seek. Amen.

We pray, secondly, for people who lead others, that they may always seek the good of others, not just themselves.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the people who lead our nation, and the nations of the world.  
We pray that you will bless them when they seek to serve others,  
And we ask you to correct them when they only serve themselves.  
We pray for those who have the power to affect many lives,  
with tanks, with missiles, and with weapons of war.  
Show them the way to make the world a better place, not just for themselves and their nation, but for all people, including their enemies.  
Hold them back from killing people and destroying homes and cities.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the Life we desire. **Amen.**

We pray, thirdly, for people have lost their way in life, and are unable to say no to drugs, or gambling, or dangerous habits.

Thank you, Lord God, for people who show us good examples to follow:  
for good parents, kind teachers, wise friends and helpful leaders.  
We pray that you will help us to become good examples for others.  
We ask you to help people who have lost their way  
who don't know how to behave  
who don't know how to say no to things that will harm them  
who don't have a clue how to make really good friends.  
Show us how to be good friends,  
to be brave enough to show them a better way to live.  
Make us brave to stand up for the kind of life that Jesus showed us how to live.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, who is the Way to live. **Amen.**

Father God, we thank you for the young people you have given to our community.  
Help them find your Son Jesus as their saviour, and to follow him all their days.  
Raise up godly, brave and creative leaders who will enrich their lives by their loving example.  
Strengthen them to stand against the tide of lies which threaten to overwhelm us in this modern world.  
Use them to bring glory to your name, in this church and community  
for the sake of Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **Amen.**

In a world where there are nations at war, Lord, bring your peace.  
In communities where people are divided by race, education and money, Lord, bring us together.  
In a church where we sometimes do not care enough for each other, Lord, help us love as you loved us.  
We pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

**Amazing Grace** **Collection Hymn 642**

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved:  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
’tis grace that brought me safe thus far  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

**A Prayer for the Sunday before Advent**

**A Prayer for Peace**

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,**  
**to know you is eternal life,**  
**and to serve you is perfect freedom:**   
**Defend us in all attacks by our enemies,**  
**that we, surely trusting in your protection,**  
**may not fear the power of any enemies;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

**A Thanksgiving**

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God. Amen**

**The Blessing**

**Joy to the world** **Hymn 166**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Dismissal**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**