

Wednesday Worship 2nd December 2020

Advent I—The Creative Breath

Introduction

*The candle is lit
(A few moments of silence)*

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

'... And the Spirit (the breath) of God was hovering over the waters.'
(John 1:1-3, Genesis 1:2)

Lord of the morning
of dawn chorus, rising sun, mist on water

Lord of the noontime
of chattering voices, laughter and fun, sparkling water, everyone

Lord of the evening
of quiet breeze, setting sun, gentle waters, day that's done

O Lord, our Lord
All How majestic is your name in all the earth

You have set your glory above the heavens

All And from the lips of children ordained praise

All O Lord, our Lord

How majestic is your name in all the earth

Creative God, breath of all life
Through whom all things are created and sustained;
all sons and daughters, flocks and herds,
all birds of the air and fish of the sea
You walked this earth as child and Creator
You touched the soil, quenched your thirst
embraced this world, brought life and light
love and laughter into dark and death-filled lives.

Creative God, breath of all life

Through whom all things are created and sustained

**All We bring to you our sacrifice
of a contrite and willing heart**

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell

Music: O come Emmanuel

Advent Sunday - Christina Rossetti

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out
With lighted lamps and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.
It may be at the midnight, black as pitch,
Earth shall cast up her poor, cast up her rich.
It may be at the crowing of the cock
Earth shall upheave her depth, uproot her rock.
For lo, the Bridegroom fetcheth home the Bride:
His Hands are Hands she knows, she knows His Side.
Like pure Rebekah at the appointed place,
Veiled, she unveils her face to meet His Face.
Like great Queen Esther in her triumphing,
She triumphs in the Presence of her King.
His Eyes are as a Dove's, and she's Dove-eyed;
He knows His lovely mirror, sister, Bride.
He speaks with Dove-voice of exceeding love,
And she with love-voice of an answering Dove.
Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go we out
With lamps ablaze and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

Psalm 20.6-8

'Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed;
he answers him from his holy heaven
with the saving power of his right hand.
'Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
'They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.'

(A moment of silence)

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts
That the God who breathed this world into being
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted his life
to the care of ordinary people
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the power of Love

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore
All **Amen.**

Isaiah 25.6-20a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Music: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Intercessions - a circle prayer

As the ripples first begin,
we pray firstly for those closest to us,
our immediate family and closest friends -
for their health, needs, joys and fears.
(Silent prayer)
God of creation, God of Salvation
All **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

As the ripples start to spread,
we pray for our extended family and friends,
who we might not see very often
and who we might not see again for a while -
with love and concern, for their wellbeing.
(Silent prayer)
God of creation, God of Salvation
All **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

As the ripples reach out towards the edge,
we pray for those who we only have contact with annually
or less - for a blessing this Advent-time
(Silent prayer)
God of creation, God of Salvation
All **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

And as the ripples reach their furthest point
we pray for this world and its people -

for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

All **Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper
Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love
Hear the prayers of our hearts**

A prayer of St Jerome

Lord, thou hast given us thy Word
for a light to shine upon our path;
grant us so to meditate on that Word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more
until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Music: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Ending

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

All **Amen.**