

- 1 Sing we the King who is coming to reign;  
glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain!  
Life and salvation his empire shall bring,  
joy to the nations when Jesus is King:

*Come let us sing: Praise to our King,  
Jesus our King, Jesus our King:  
this is our song, who to Jesus belong:  
Glory to Jesus, to Jesus our King.*

- 2 All shall be well in his kingdom of peace;  
freedom shall flourish and wisdom increase;  
justice and truth from his sceptre shall spring;  
wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King:
- 3 Souls shall be saved from the burden of sin;  
doubt shall not darken his witness within;  
hell has no terrors, and death has no sting;  
love is victorious when Jesus is King:
- 4 Kingdom of Christ, for your coming we pray;  
hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day  
when this new song your creation shall sing;  
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King:

3<sup>rd</sup> December **Advent 1** Be alert and watchful



## **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

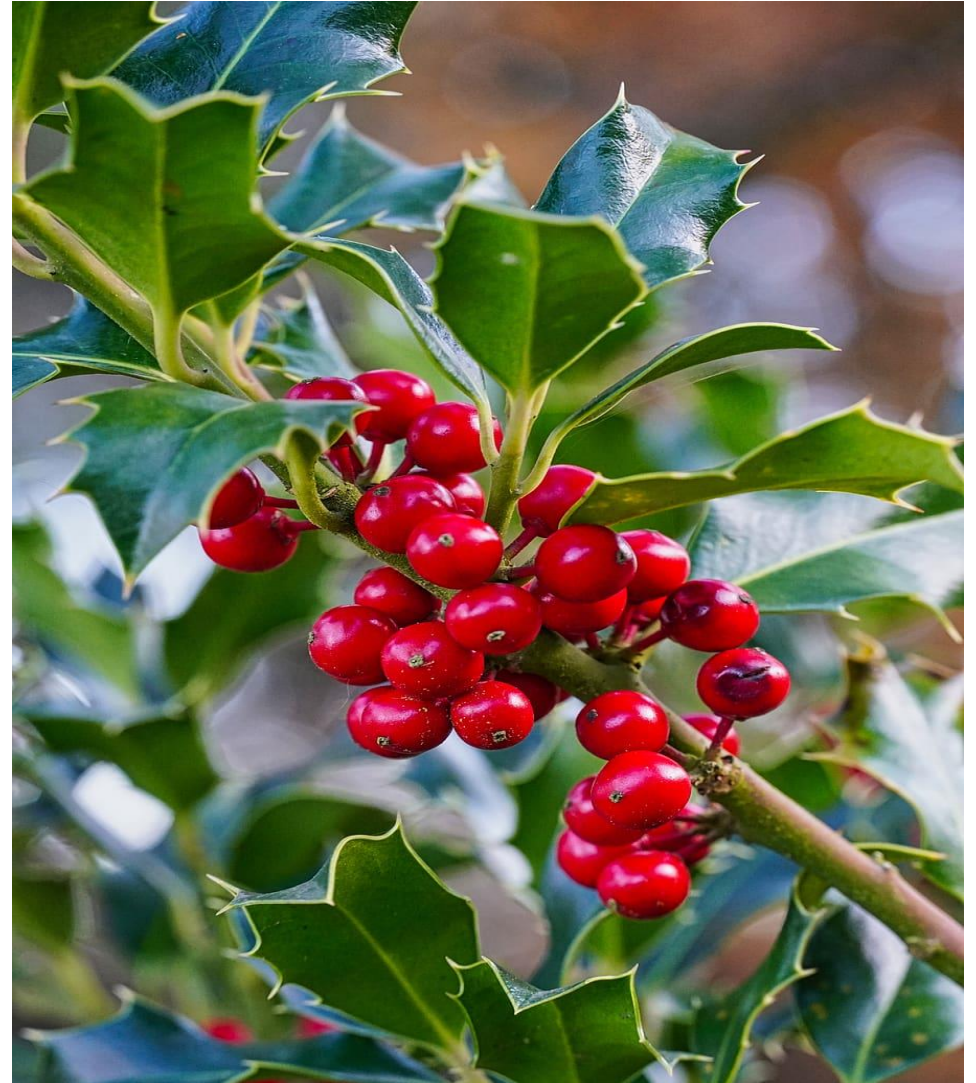
## **Collect**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

“God warms my heart when I keep my eyes fixed on Him.” There’s a great story about Saint Francis of Assisi that illustrates this very well. One winter night, there was a raging blizzard, and the man who was supposed to wake up every couple of hours and keep the fire going at the monastery was unable to find Francis. So he went outside into the storm and found him kneeling at the side of a hill wearing his ordinary clothing. His arms were outstretched; he was praying, oblivious to the wind and biting cold snow. A day later, when the man asked Francis how he could stand this, Francis replied, “God warms my heart when I keep my eyes fixed on Him.” God warms our hearts, too, when we keep our eyes fixed on God.

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 To heal the sick stretch out your hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.
- 5 To God the Son all glory be  
whose advent sets his people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

10<sup>th</sup> December **Advent 2** John the Baptist,  
Prepare the way



## **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
Amen

Martin Buber tells the story about a rabbi's disciple who begged his master to teach him how to prepare his soul for the service of God. The holy man told him to go to Rabbi Abraham, who at the time, was still an innkeeper. The disciple did as instructed and lived in the inn for several weeks without observing any vestige of holiness in the innkeeper, who, from Morning Prayer till night devoted himself to affairs of his business. Finally the disciple approached him and asked him what he did all day. "My most important occupation" said Rabbi Abraham, "is to clean the dishes properly, so that not the slightest trace of food is left, and to clean and dry the pots and pans, so that they do not rust." When the disciple returned home and reported to his rabbi what he had seen and heard, the rabbi said to him, "Now you know the answer about how to prepare your soul for the service of God." The way to reach God is by doing everything wholeheartedly and genuinely; everything (and every act) is full of God's holiness -so treat it accordingly with dignity and respect

StF 186 Timothy Dudley-Smith

- 1 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.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 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.
  
- 4 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 for evermore!

## The Cotteridge Church

17<sup>th</sup> December **Advent 3** Rejoice



## **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Luke 1:47-55

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
Amen

Are you OK?" There is an old story of a father who, on a dark, stormy night in the midst of the thunder's crash and the lightning's flash, awakened and thought of his small son alone in his bedroom upstairs who might be scared of it all. So he rushed upstairs with his flashlight to check on the boy to see if he was all right. He was flashing the light around the room when the boy awakened, and said, with a startled cry, "Who's there? Who's in my room?" The father's first thought was to flash his light in the face of the boy, but then he thought, "No. If I do that, I will frighten him all the more." So he turned the light on his own face. And the little boy said, "Oh, it's you, Dad." The father said, "Yes, it's Dad. I'm just up here checking on things. Everything's OK, so go on back to sleep." And the little boy did. That is what the Incarnation is all about: God's shining the light in His own face so that you and I might know that everything really is OK.

StF 178 Fred Pratt Green

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?*

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

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

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

## The Cotteridge Church

24<sup>th</sup> December **Advent 4** Annunciation



## **Bible Readings**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
Amen

“Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” A Persian legend runs that a certain king needed a faithful servant, and two men were candidates for the office. He took both at fixed wages, and his first order was to fill a basket with water from a neighboring well, saying that he would come in the evening and see their work. After putting in one or two bucketful’s, one man said, “What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water inside the bucket with several holes, it runs out. The other answered, “But we have our wages, haven’t we? Our master may have his plans.” “I am not going to do such fool’s work,” replied the other. Throwing down his bucket, he went away. The other man continued until he had drained the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining—a diamond ring. “Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket with holes,” he cried. “If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was emptied, it would have been found in the basket. Our work was not useless.” — Christians must believe that their divine Master knows what is best, and obey his commands, and in due time they will know and understand. Mary understood this and obeyed God in all humility, starting in the Annunciation



StF 470 Timothy Dudley-Smith

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

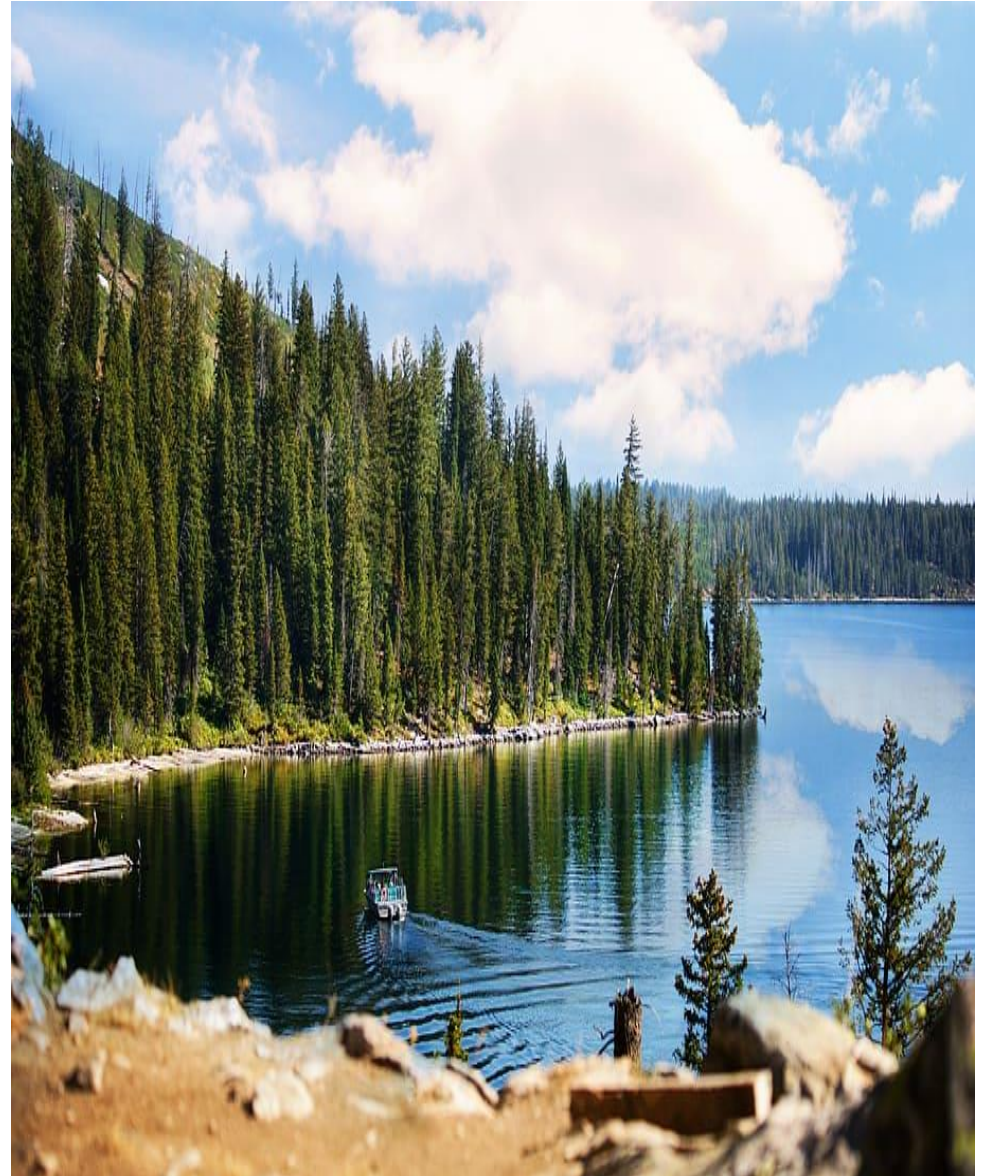
Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926)

## The Cotteridge Church

31<sup>st</sup> December **Christmas 1**



## **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

Mosquito or honey bee: If you think a mosquito is small and has little influence, try sleeping in a hot room at night with but a single blood-sucking insect. Its high-pitched whine and sharp proboscis can leave you sleepy, itchy, and furious. On the other hand, consider the lowly honeybee. One single winged creature lurching from flower to flower can make the heart leap for joy as it brightens your day, spreads pollen about, and makes honey in the hive. We mortals, not unlike mosquitoes and honeybees, have our own influence. We can be the bane of a room or the blessing of a family. Here in the text, Jesus talks about it all with a group of religious leaders of his own day.