

Hymn
Down from his glory 116

Prayers

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses.
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn
Lo, He comes on clouds descending, 424

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before you. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

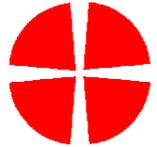
Gift Service

Today is our Gift Service, the occasion on which we return our gifts for our Partnership Christmas Charity. This year we are supporting the Kings Arms Charity for the homeless in Bedford. They provide shelter and care for some of the very most vulnerable people in our community, those sleeping outside in the streets and parks of Bedford in the cold this Christmas. Please give generously.

Thank you to all those who have helped prepare our churches or helped us in our worship this morning.



**St. Mark's Church
Bedford**



Advent Family Worship

Welcome to our service today and a special welcome to the family of ____ who have been brought for baptism

**Lighting of the Advent Candle
Second Candle - The Prophets**

Leader: May the joy and peace of God fill our hearts as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, *(A person lights the first candle)* Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light a candle to remember the prophets. The prophet Isaiah said, 'For to us a child is born, to 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. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.'

Today, as we light the Second Candle of Advent, we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ. They told of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace" and told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.
(A person lights the second candle)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide

Prayer

Minister Wait for the Lord; praise his name
be strong and brave and put your hope in the Lord

**All We will praise the name of the Lord
we will trust in him
and keep the faith of Christ Jesus**

Minister The tender compassion of our God
the dawn from heaven shall break upon us
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**All Lord Jesus, may your grace draw us ever closer to
you that we might know your presence in our lives
this Christmas time.**

Hymn

O come o come Immanuel 493,

Confession

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sins to God, seeking his mercy and forgiveness.

Holy and forgiving God, we have sinned against you and each other, in thought and word and deed. We have turned from your life-giving word, and ignored the message of those you sent. We are unprepared for the advent of your Son. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, that strengthened by your love we may serve you more faithfully through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Minister will say the words of forgiveness

The Offering

Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Hymn

There's a sound on the wind, 681

Collect Prayer and Bible Readings

(These readings may be followed in Partnership News)

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn

What child is this 749

The Address

Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**