

**Traditional Home service  
Sunday 28th Nov**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**PRAYER OF PENITENCE**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**My God, for love of you  
I desire to hate and forsake all sins  
by which I have ever displeased you;  
and I resolve by the help of your grace  
to commit them no more;  
and to avoid all opportunities of sin.  
Help me to do this,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**PRAISE**

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name.

*HYMN 1 (Lo! he comes with clouds  
descending)*

**READINGS** - Jeremiah 33.14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3.9-13  
Luke 21.25-36

**TALK**

**CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Spend some time praying for our nation,  
our community and our families.*

**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.

*HYMN 2 (Rejoice, the Lord is King)*

**CONCLUSION**

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

1 Lo! he comes with clouds  
descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold  
him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing  
Deeply wailing  
Deeply wailing  
Shall the true Messiah see.

3 Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory:  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
O come quickly!  
O come quickly!  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice

2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He has purged our stains,  
He took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

3 His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

4 Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord and judge shall come  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Sermon - Matthew Beeby  
There Is hope in them clouds

“The Second Coming” refers to the return of Jesus Christ as described in Revelation, Hebrews, the Gospels, and many other places.

The first time Jesus came to earth, He was only a baby. After His ministry on earth, crucifixion, and resurrection He returned to Heaven “to prepare a place” for His followers (John 14:3).

He also promises His return. He brings His followers to heaven with Him, and sin and Satan will be destroyed forever.

The Second Coming is something to hope for. It is a literal event, a personal encounter, a visible experience, and a worldwide occasion. It’s the culmination of the plan of salvation!

So let’s learn more about this incomparably wonderful event:

- What the Second Coming will be like
- When will the Second Coming happen?
- How the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is the ultimate hope
- How to prepare for the Second Coming

## **BELIEF 25: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour’s coming will be literal, personal, visible, and it will be worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living, will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die.

Atheists will look to the skies, throw their arms in the air, and exclaim, ‘I’ll be damned!’

The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ’s coming is near. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.

## **WHAT WILL THE SECOND COMING BE LIKE?**

### **LITERAL**

The Second Coming is not a secret for only the most educated, or a prize for the rich. It’s not metaphorical or symbolic, or only happening on a spiritual plane, as once believed by many Christian communities. It is and will be a literal event that is described in Scripture.

- Jesus will descend on a cloud.
- 
- The righteous dead will rise from their graves and up to the cloud with Jesus.
- 
- The righteous living will rise up to the clouds with Jesus and “always be with the Lord”

. Jesus will return on a cloud, staying in the sky. He will not set foot on the ground. The dead in Christ will rise up with Him, and those living will soon follow.

*“When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”*

### **PERSONAL**

Jesus’ return is about reuniting Himself with us. In John 14 He informed His disciples He was ascending back to heaven, but He would be preparing a place for us.

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3 ESV).*

Not only will we be called up to the clouds with Jesus, but we’ll be with Him forever. Philippians 3:20 tells us that *“our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (ESV).*

Even if someone has not made the decision to follow Jesus, He is always ready for us to come to Him. So that He can bring as many of His children up to Heaven as possible.

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).*

## Visible

Revelation 1:7 says “*every eye shall see Him*” (ESV). We will not have to guess or wonder if this is really Jesus or not. No matter where we are, we’ll be able to “*see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*” (Matthew 24:30, ESV).

Jesus will be visible to all—those who hurt Him, those who choose to believe in Him, and those who don’t. The Second Coming will not be something anyone can miss!

## WORLDWIDE

Through the Bible we can see the Second Coming is not only a literal event, but a global event. Just as referenced in the section above, “every eye will see Him”—no matter the time zone, continent, etc.

It’s hard to imagine something like this, but with God nothing is impossible. We’re told, “*For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in His day...*” (Luke 17:22, ESV).

We will also be able to hear the trumpet calls and victory shouts of the Angels who will accompany Jesus when He returns.

## NO ONE KNOWS “THE DAY OR THE HOUR” OF THE SECOND COMING

Though Jesus was clear that He would return, He also explained that the details for *when* it would happen are not ours to know.

*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only* (Matthew 24:36 ESV).

Not even the angels know the day Jesus will return.

This is similar to how Noah knew the rain would come, but not the exact moment it would begin. God warned Noah that He would send a flood to destroy the corruption on earth (Genesis 6).

Noah knew the rain would come, but did not know when it would begin. Like the flood in Genesis, no creature in existence will know when Christ will return, but we know He will.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for His departure (crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension) as well as His second coming. To prepare them, Jesus used parables for lessons and examples.

*Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom* (Matthew 25:1 ESV).

In the story Jesus tells, there are five virgins who are wise and five who are foolish. All ten gather to wait for the bridegroom to arrive so they can enter the wedding feast. The wise bring extra oil for their lamps, and the foolish bring none.

Before the bridegroom arrived, those who brought no oil for their lamps had to go buy more. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The wise virgins got to go into the wedding feast. When the five foolish virgins returned they could not go in (v. 1-12 ESV).

Jesus finishes His warning by telling them “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (v. 13 ESV).

It is not for us to know, because our job is not to focus on “when” it’s happening.

Our task is to keep our eyes on Jesus, take the Great Commission to heart, and live as a walking testimony—knowing that Jesus will indeed come to save us, and put an end to sin and evil forever.

No one knows when the events of the second coming will occur—no one but God the Father. This means anyone who claims to know is either mistaken or seeking to manipulate.

## THE SECOND COMING IS THE HOPE

Near the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry, during the last night with His disciples, He told them

*“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also”* (John 14:2 ESV).

Christ’s second coming is a promise from the Bible. It will be the triumphant return of a king. It is the blessed hope that Christ’s

future return will be the climax to our story on earth. It is not the end, but the beginning of how life was meant to be all along. With Christ's coming, our existence will be perfect and complete.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE SECOND COMING

Like the ten virgins in Jesus' parable, we must be prepared for the bridegroom's coming. We are all sinners and need Him. It's through Jesus Christ alone that we may enter the "wedding feast" (heaven).

It's through Jesus that we prepare for His coming, and as long as we have a relationship with Him, we will be ready.

We won't lose our spot in heaven if we make a little mistake. We won't need to fear the end of time. We can rest assured knowing our home is in heaven, despite our sinful nature.

Scripture tells us "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). That means every one of us has sinned and doesn't deserve heaven.

Because of the fall of mankind in Eden, we are left with a legacy of sin. Through Jesus Christ we are saved from the consequences of sin. That's why Romans 3 continues, telling us we are "*justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (vs. 24, CSB)*."

Additionally, Romans 6:23 says,

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (ESV).

Jesus took that death upon Himself, dying in our place and being raised again to return to heaven to minister on our behalf.

We have the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. To prepare for that life is to prepare for His coming. To prepare we must believe in Him (John 3:16). We must know Him.

To know Jesus and grow our faith in Him, we must cultivate a relationship with Him.

Some things to help us do that could be:

- Pray daily—throughout the day. Pray for others. Pray as a family. Pray in the name of Jesus who intervenes for you in heaven.

- 
- Study your Bible. Read the Bible daily so that you can meditate on God's Holy Word. Use scriptures and Bible promises in your personal prayer life. Memorize scripture and draw connections with your modern life and experiences.
- 
- Listen to sermons and teachers. Use free online platforms to listen to uplifting messages and Bible lectures. Find trusted mentors to teach you deep Bible truths.
- Attend Develop relationships with like-minded Christians who will help you in your walk with God.
- 
- Limit exposure to worldly things.
- No one knows better than you how secular activities and experiences affect you. Maintain caution and limit exposure to things that tempt you or hinder your relationship with God.

To grow our faith in Jesus and our relationship with Him, prayer and personal Bible study are extremely important. Bible study and prayer through the Holy Spirit is our direct connection to the Saviour we're waiting for.

It is the best way to prepare for His soon coming. Walking this journey with other believers is a crucial part of the experience.

Yes, this world is in chaos. Political and social unrest is all around us. Sin runs rampant. Physical and mental health is suffering around the world. But with all this working against us, we still have hope.

This world is not what God intended, but Jesus' return will be the end of this world as we know it. His return will be the first step in restoring this world into the perfect world it was always meant to be.

Now the Church rests its hope in Christ alone, in His promises, and in His return.

Amen