**St. Helen’s Surrey**

**Evening Prayer for Advent 2**

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*Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can extinguish.**

*As the candles are lighted, we sing*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**and ransom captive Israel**

**That mourns in lonely exile here,**

**Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel**

**O Gracious Light**

O gracious Light,

**pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,**

**O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

**and our eyes behold the vesper light,**

**we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be sung by happy voices,**

**O Son of God, O Giver of life,**

**and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,

creator of light and darkness.

In this holy season when the sun’s light is swallowed up

by the growing darkness of the night,

you renew your promise to reveal among us

the splendour of your glory,

enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.

Through the outpouring of his Spirit,

you open our blindness to the glory of his presence.

Strengthen us in our weakness.

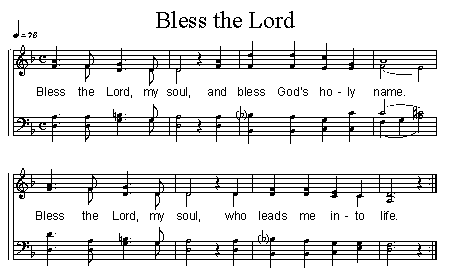
Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will

and free our tongues to sing your praise.

For to you all honour and blessing are due,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 115**



1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory; \*

because of your love and because of your faithfulness.

2 Why should the heathen say, \*

”Where then is their God?”

3 Our God is in heaven; \*

whatever he wills to do he does.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, \*

the work of human hands.

5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*

eyes have they, but they cannot see;

6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; \*

noses, but they cannot smell;

7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; \*

they make no sound with their throat.

8 Those who make them are like them, \*

and so are all who put their trust in them.

**Bless the Lord my soul…**

9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; \*

he is their help and their shield.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; \*

he is their help and their shield.

11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; \*

he is their help and their shield.

12 The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; \*

he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, \*

both small and great together.

**Bless the Lord my soul…**

14 May the Lord increase you more and more, \*

you and your children after you.

15 May you be blessed by the Lord, \*

the maker of heaven and earth.

16 The heaven of heavens is the Lord’s, \*

but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.

17 The dead do not praise the Lord, \*

nor all those who go down into silence;

18 But we will bless the Lord, \*

from this time forth for evermore. Hallelujah!

**Bless the Lord my soul…**

**The Reading –** Luke 7:28-35

I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.’ (And all the people who heard this, including the tax-collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John’s baptism. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves.)

‘To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.”

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.’

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

*A Reflection*

**Advent Responsory**

My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.**

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice.

**In his word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

**In his word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning.

**In his word is my hope.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

**In his word is my hope.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.**

**A Time of Prayer**

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord hear my prayer**

**When I call answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord hear my prayer**

**Come and listen to me**

*All are invited to pray silently or to share their prayer aloud.*

*A candle is lighted for each of the petitions with a short silence following*

For Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

For Forgiveness

For the Homeless,

For the unemployed,

For the hungry,

For the addicted,

For the lonely,

For the victims of crime and violence

For the victims of war and strife

For those who have asked our prayers

For the Surrey Urban Mission, the Food Bank, Night Shift,

For hospitals – for patients and all who work in health care

For Schools – students, teachers, staff

For Children and families

For those known to God alone

For the coming of God’s Kingdom

For the Church; especially St. Helen’s

For our own lives and a Holy Advent

**O Lord, hear my prayer…**

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise

for all you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,

for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,

and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,

and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts,

and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures

that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;

for the truth of his word and the example of his life;

for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;

for his dying, through which he overcame death;

for his rising to life again,

in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit,

that we may know Christ and make him known;

and through him, at all times and in all places,

may give thanks to you in all things. **Amen.**

Creator of the universe, the light of your glory shines in the

darkness of our lives. Make us attentive to your presence,

prompt to serve you, and ever eager to follow in the steps of

the one who is our true light, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen**.

**The Collect**

Almighty God,

**who sent your servant John the Baptist**

**to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,**

**inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,**

**to turn our disobedient hearts to you,**

**that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge,**

**we may stand with confidence before his glory;**

**who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

And now, joining our voices as one,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,

scatter the darkness from before your path,

and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;

and the blessingof God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, always.  **Amen.**