

# *In the beginning was the Word...*

*An Advent & Christmas Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney*



## Hasten

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023



*Photo by Anna Dzubinska on Unsplash*

### **Scripture: Matthew 11: 16-19**

Jesus said ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

*To reflect:*

Would you like things to hurry up? To hasten? To arrive quicker? Perhaps you're waiting for a person to arrive, for a date to pass or maybe just the bus to arrive sooner.

Today's word is hasten, it's taken from last Sunday's Epistle (2 Peter 3: 11-13) "*Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.*"

How do you feel about this Advent as we approach the Third Sunday, over half-way through but in some ways it may seem that we have a long way to go still. Would you like to hasten through it to rush, accelerate the days to the Manger? If you were to depict your journey through Advent as one of the people in the London Underground Station in the image above, where and who would you be? Would you be rushing up or down the stairs, stopping looking up, seeking for something you haven't found yet or perhaps looking down and concentrating on something else? We live our lives in this world, with its distractions and joys, business and hastening on and the invitation today is to reflect on your Advent so far. Hasten or slow, accelerate or brake – what would you like to do this Advent as you connect with God – the one whose day we are waiting for this Advent and beyond?

*Sonnet 60: Like as the waves make towards the pebb'l'd shore by William Shakespeare*

Like as the waves make towards the pebb'l'd shore,  
So do our minutes hasten to their end;  
Each changing place with that which goes before,  
In sequent toil all forwards do contend.  
Nativity, once in the main of light,  
Crawls to maturity, wherewith being crown'd,  
Crooked eclipses 'gainst his glory fight,  
And Time that gave doth now his gift confound.  
Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth  
And delves the parallels in beauty's brow,  
Feeds on the rarities of nature's truth,  
And nothing stands but for his scythe to mow:  
And yet to times in hope my verse shall stand,  
Praising thy worth, despite his cruel hand.

*To Listen:*

*Hurry Up and Wait* by Stereophonics

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2xzjTLiGIyyKGUVchbXuU8?si=01c0cdae9d1c4793>

*Alleluia! The Lord is Near* by Ernest Sands

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6gSJMq12hvMWsucvwwRpb2?si=c2911c5e5433424a>

*The word for each day (3-25 December is taken from Advent Word 2023 #adventword).*

*...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*