

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

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



## **Enlighten**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023



*St John the Evangelist by Valentin de Boulogne (c 1622-1623, Oil on Canvas) The William A. Whitaker Foundation Art Fund, The Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill*

### **Scripture: 1 John 1:1-9**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are

walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*To reflect.*

Today is the day when the church remembers John, Apostle and Evangelist. One of the first disciples of Jesus, author of the Gospel of John and the one thought to be the 'beloved disciple'. A Gospel writer – one who brings good news of the light of Jesus, one who we would have heard their Gospel at some point over Christmas bringing together Creation and the Nativity. Someone who was a witness to the adult Jesus' earthly ministry and walked the part of a Jesus-shaped life, changed forever in their interactions with Emmanuel, God with Us, the Light of the World. How are you illumined in your faith by the works of the apostle and evangelist John?

### *Hymn to St John*

O God, the eagle rises toward the Sun  
To spill the gospel out upon the night  
Made dark by sin and death until the Word  
Bore fire from heav'n to become our light.  
Saint John proclaims the light our very life,  
Our truth set free from our disfigured clay,  
Our path to glory flaming through the cross,  
The lamp to light our steps along the way.  
Be praised, O God, for words that raise us up  
Toward heights we would not dare to scale alone.  
Be praised most holy threefold mystery,  
Through Christ, the Word who made our flesh his own

*To Pray: Collect for John, Apostle and Evangelist*

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light,  
that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John,  
may walk in the light of your truth and come at last to the fullness of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

*To listen*

*Beloved and Blessed* by Stuart Townend, one version is "The Best of Stuart Townend Live..."  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/6ZxFPV48gXAOflqQEBQh06?si=341b7330cd5c46f1>

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* one version id by The Coventry Singers

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5oNOorXNxpxUiNB1WJoemM?si=bc9dff1122574d96>

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