

In the beginning was the Word...

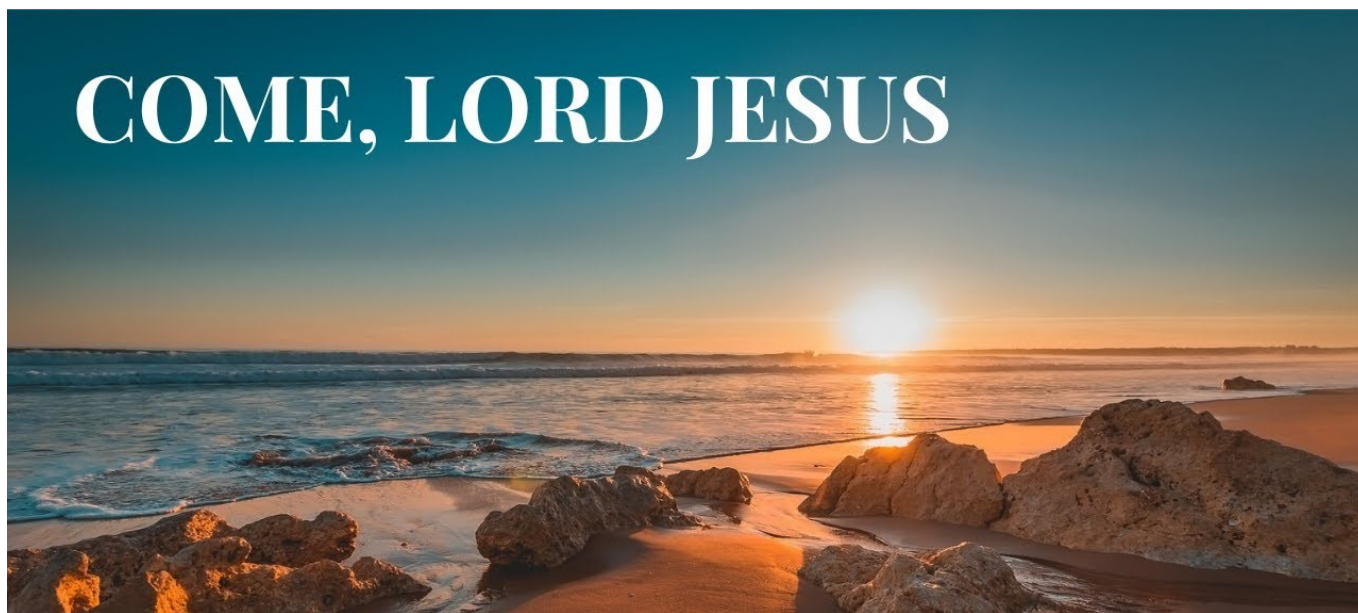
An Advent & Christmas Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney



Wind

Thursday 4th January 2024

COME, LORD JESUS



(NYCPCD 2007)

Scripture: John 1:35-42 (NIVUK)

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹'Come,' he replied, 'and you will see.'

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter).

To reflect

"Come and you will see" are hopefully words that we have used as we have invited people to our Christmas services. Come and see is a great invitation to give to people as we encourage them to explore the Christian faith for themselves. They are also the words that Jesus used to invite two of John the Baptist's disciples to come and spend time with him. In fact, "Come" is the word Jesus often used when he first invited people to follow him. "Come, follow me".

Many of us perhaps responded to Jesus' invitation to come and follow many years ago. If you have then I invite you to take a moment and sense Jesus' invitation, "Come, follow me". And allow yourself time to respond to Jesus' invitation.

For all of us, as we enter into a new year, it is important to hear again Jesus' invitation, "Come". Are we ready to allow Jesus to lead us through another year? Is Jesus inviting us to follow him to a new place or into a new activity? Or does Jesus' invitation to "come" simply remind us of the commitment we have already made to Jesus and the challenge to remain faithful. To keep following. Following Jesus is never easy but the more we are able to hear and respond to Jesus' invitation to "come", the more we will, like Andrew and the other disciples, be able to say "We have found the Messiah" and offer Jesus our true worship.

The word "come", however, is not simply a word we need to hear Jesus say to us. It is a word that we need to pray to Jesus. In the second last verse of the Bible Jesus says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' And the response is. Amen. "Come, Lord Jesus". "Come, Lord Jesus" is one of the great prayers of advent. It recognises that our problems, and the problems of our world, will not be solved simply by us all working harder, we need Jesus' help. So we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus". Are there situations in your life where you know you need Jesus' help, then pray, "Come, Lord Jesus". Are there people you know who are struggling at the beginning of this year, do not simply try and help them in your own strength. Invite Jesus to come into their lives and bring his help and his healing. As we consider all the challenges our world faces, and the failure of so many of to really rise to the challenges. It is vitally important that we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus". Come and bring your light and your hope in the darkest situations in our world. Come and inspire us as a human race to rise to the challenges we face and make the world a better place.

Scripture, however, makes clear that God's will can only come in all its fullness, and our world's problems will only be fully overcome, when Jesus returns from heaven to earth. So in Advent, the word, "Come", challenges us not to just do things in our own strength but to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus".

To pray

Take time throughout the day to quietly repeat the prayer. "Come, Lord Jesus"

To listen

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by The Choir of King's College, Cambridge:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcIIZpnZPgo>

Great is the darkness by Noel Richards:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQ8qe3CggWo>

"Will you come and follow me" by John Bell, sung by The Summons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

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