

Collect: God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – to the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ!

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and

give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Post Communion: Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Readings for the Midnight Service are:
Hebrews 1.1–4, and John 1.1–14

The Readings for Christmas Day are:
Isaiah 9.2, 6–7 and Luke 2.1–20

Advent Ring song

1. Light an Advent Candle
See it from afar,
How it shines so brightly
Like the guiding star:

**God bless our little light,
It shines in the darkest night
For hope to come, for hope to come.**



2. Light an Advent candle
So we'll make a space,
Clear away the rubbish
From love's dwelling place:

**God bless our little light,
It shines in the darkest night
For peace to come, peace to come.**

3. Light an Advent candle
As the time draws near,
Thinking of the birthday
That will soon be here:

**God bless our little light,
It shines in the darkest night
For joy to come, joy to come.**

4. Now the Advent candles
Shed their Christmas glow,
See them burning brighter
With the truth we know:

**God bless our little light,
It shines in the darkest night
For love to come, love to come.**