

Walton Churches Advent Course 2019

Make Way for Christmas

Sharing and reflecting on the Christmas
songs of Graham Kendrick

27th November - St Mary's Church, Walton

4th December - Seaton Rd Methodist Church

11th December - Seaton Rd Methodist Church

all at 7pm for 7.30,
with refreshments from 7pm



Opening Worship

From Heaven You came, helpless babe

From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This Is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load He chose to bear;;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but Yours,' He said.

Come, see His hands and His feet,,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone Him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Prayer: An Advent litany

A: Among the poor,

B: among the proud,

A: among the persecuted,

B: among the privileged,

A: Christ is coming,

All: He is coming to make all things new.

A: In the private house,

B: in the market place,

A: in the wedding feast,

B: in the judgement hall,

A: Christ is coming,

All: He is coming to make all things new.

A: With a gentle touch,
B: with an angry word,
A: with a clear conscience,
B: with burning love,
A: Christ is coming,
All: He is coming to make all things new.

A: That the kingdom might come,
B: that the world might believe,
A: that the powerful might stumble,
B: that the humble might be raised,
A: Christ is coming,
All: He is coming to make all things new.

A: Within us, without us,
B: among us, before us,
A: in this place,
B: in every place,
A: for this time,
B: for all time,
A: Christ is coming,
All: He is coming to make all things new.

Song for week1: O What a mystery I see

O what a mystery I see,
what marvellous design,
that God should come as one of us,
a Son in David's line.

Flesh of our flesh, of woman born,
our humanness He owns;
and for a world of wickedness
His guiltless blood atones.

This perfect Man, incarnate God,
by selfless sacrifice
destroyed our sinful history,
all fallen Adam's curse.
In Him the curse to blessing turns,
my barren spirit flowers
as over the shattered power of sin
the cross of Jesus towers

Women - By faith a child of His I stand,
an heir in David's line,
royal descendant by His blood
destined by love's design.

Men - Fathers of faith, my fathers now!
because in Christ I am,

All - and all God's promises in Him
to me are 'Yes, Amen'!

No more then as a child of earth
must I my lifetime spend -
His history, His destiny
are mine to apprehend
O what a Saviour, what a Lord,
O Master, Brother, Friend!
What a miracle has joined me to
this life that never ends!

**Songs for Week 2: Let it be to me
Immanuel, O Immanuel -**

Let it be to me according to Your word;
let it be to me according to Your word.
I am your servant, no rights shall I demand.
Let it be to me, let it be to me,
let it be to me according to Your word.

Immanuel, O Immanuel,
bowed in awe I worship at Your feet,
and sing, "Immanuel, God is with us!".
Sharing my humanness, my shame, feeling my
 weaknesses, my pain,
taking the punishment, the blame,
Immanuel.

And now my words cannot explain
all that my heart cannot contain,
how great are the glories of our name,
Immanuel.

Song for Week 3: Like a candle flame

Like a candle flame,
flick'ring small in our darkness,
uncreated light
shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)

Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of his holy fire.

Closing worship

Song: Darkness like a shroud (Arise, shine!)

Darkness like a shroud covers the earth;
evil like a cloud covers the people;
but the Lord will rise upon you,
and His glory will appear on you,
nations will come to your light.

*Arise, shine, your light has come,
the glory of the Lord has risen on you;
arise, shine, your light has come,
Jesus the Light of the world has come.*

Children of the light, be clean and pure;
rise, you sleepers, Christ will shine on you:
take the Spirit's flashing two-edged sword
and with faith declare God's mighty word:
stand up and in His strength be strong.

Here among us now, Christ the light
kindles brighter flames in our trembling hearts:
Living Word, our lamp, come guide our feet
as we walk as one in light and peace,
justice and truth shine like the sun.

Like a city bright so let us blaze;
lights in every street turning night to day.
and the darkness shall not overcome,
till the fullness of Christ's kingdom comes,
dawning to God's eternal day.