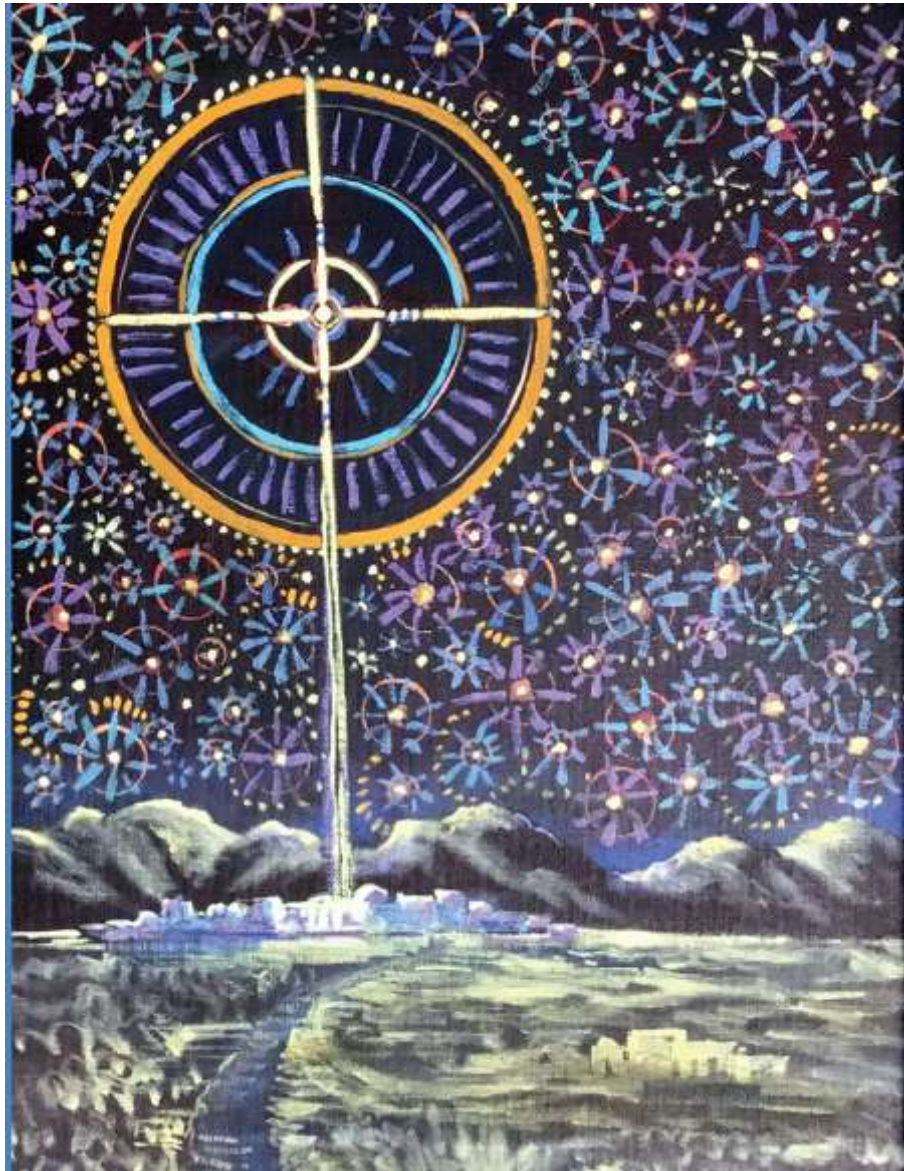


THE ART OF ADVENT



Walton Churches
Course Booklet
Advent 2018

Welcome to Walton Churches Advent Course for 2018, we hope that you will enjoy this gentle walk through some of the magnificent art of advent. Each week we will have an opportunity to sing, pray, listen and reflect on an image and a reading.

All three sessions are on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, refreshments will be served from 7pm. Each session is a standalone, so please do come to any or all of them.

Week One: 28th November at Seaton Road Church

Week Two: 5th December at St Mary's Church

Week Three: 12th December at Seaton Road Church

Opening Prayer

Lord our God,
Keep us your servants alert and watchful
as we await the return of Christ your son,
so that when he comes and knocks at the door
he may find us vigilant in Prayer
with songs of praise on our lips.
Amen.

Song: Angel Voices, Ever Singing

Angel voices ever singing
round Thy throne of light,
angel harps, forever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless Thee
and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that Thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we feel that Thou art near us
and wilt hear us? Yea, we can.

Yea, we know Thy love rejoices
o'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for Thy praise combine;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for Thy pleasure all combine.

Here, great God, today we offer
of Thine own to Thee;
and for Thine acceptance proffer,
all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest melody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity:
of the best that Thou hast given
earth and heaven render Thee.

A time of silence

Reflection

Discussion

Prayers/Worship

Final Prayer

Come Holy Spirit , and open our eyes to the wonder of Emmanuel,
the Father's gift of Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord is With You



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38

Week Two

Great is Your Faithfulness



But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘therefore I will hope in him.’

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.
It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not
reject for ever.
Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

When all the prisoners of the land
are crushed under foot,
when human rights are perverted
in the presence of the Most High,
when one's case is subverted
—does the Lord not see it?

Who can command and have it done,
if the Lord has not ordained it?
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
that good and bad come?
Why should any who draw breath complain
about the punishment of their sins?

Let us test and examine our ways,
and return to the Lord.

Lamentations 3:21-40

O Come Emmanuel



Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:4-20

You are warmly invited to celebrate Christmas with us

Tuesday 11th December 5.30pm at St Philip's Hall, Wadgate Road – Carol Safari ending at 6.30pm at Maidstone Road Church for refreshments



Maidstone Road Church:

Sunday 16th December 10.30am - Nativity Service

Sunday 23rd December 10.30am - Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30am - Christmas Celebration

Sunday 30th December 10.30am - The Real Christmas Service

Seaton Road Church

Saturday 8th December 9-11am – The Big Christmas Breakfast

Sunday 16th December 9.15am breakfast for 9.45am – Christmas Café Worship

Tuesday 18th December 7pm – Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day 9.45am – Christmas Day Celebration for all the Family

Sunday 30th December 11am – Mission Area Service at Trinity Methodist Church (No Service at Seaton Road Church)



St Mary's Church

Sunday 9th December 6.30pm - Community Carol Service

Sunday 16th December 6.30pm – Carols By Candlelight

Sunday 23rd December 8am – Holy Communion (BCP)

10am – Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship

Monday 24th December 3pm – Nativity Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 8am - Holy Communion (BCP)

10am - Family Communion

Sunday 30th December 10am – Morning Worship

