

# St Paul's Church - Sunday 27 December 2020

## Confession

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;  
that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.  
May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins  
and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Assurance : 1 John 1:8-9

*8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

### 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!

Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
yet in your dark streets shining is everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

2. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven:  
no ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him - still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell -  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.  
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**1. Ding-dong! Merrily on high**  
in heaven the bells are ringing.  
Ding-dong! Verily the sky  
is riven with angels singing:  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

3. Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chime, you ringers;  
may you beautifully rhyme  
your evetime song, you singers:  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

**Hark! the herald angels sing**  
Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild, He lays His glory by;  
Born that men no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth;  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!

2. E'en so, here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen;  
and i-o, i-o, i-o,  
by priest and people sungen!  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

*G R Woodward (1848-1934)*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored  
Christ, the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!

Charles Wesley

## **Mark 13:1-23**

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” 2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” 5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

9 “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.

10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

14 “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.

20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

### **Outline of Mark 13:1-23**

It’s all about the future now...

#### **1. Jesus is the one we all need**

v14... Daniel 9, 11, 12

AD 70

A comfort...

A challenge...

#### **2. Priorities we all need in Jesus**

- **Safety of soul...v5-6**
- **safety of mind...v7-8**
- **Strength in Jesus... v9-11**
- **Safety of the heart... v12-13**