



Welcome

We welcome you today whatever your reason for coming

**'A global Christian family following
Jesus at the heart of London'**



**9:30 am Sunday, 30th November 2025
1st Sunday of Advent**



METHODIST
CENTRAL HALL



ONLINE SERVICE

Preacher: Revd Dr Joyce Popoola with Revd Tony Miles

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

LIVE-STREAM WELCOME

VIDEO CALL TO WORSHIP – Radiant Hope, Advent 1: Hope in the darkness

VIDEO SONG – O Come, O Come, Immanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O come, O Lord of might
who to your tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel...

O come, O Rod of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel...

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel...

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel...

*Latin, 18th Century,
based on the ancient Advent Antiphons
translated by John Mason Neale (1811-1866)*

OPENING PRAYERS

Revd Dr Joyce Popoola

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join in using your own language or the version you prefer.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

VIDEO OT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

Read by Dan Forshaw

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
³ Many peoples will come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.'
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war any more.
⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

VIDEO SONG – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

VIDEO GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

Read by Lydia Forshaw

³⁶ 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

SERMON 'People of Hope'

Rev'd Dr Joyce Popoola

VIDEO HYMN – Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb

In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your lovingkindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of Kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

[Chorus]

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the warning
that seal the promise
your very body began to breathe
out of the silence the roaring lion.
Declare the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, yours is the victory

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Jesus Christ, my living hope
O God, you are my living hope.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS **Revd Tony Miles**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO GLOBAL GREETINGS

OFFERING PRAYER **Revd Dr Joyce Popoola**

VIDEO HYMN – Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Sing, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;

Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

HEALING PRAYER TEAM

Revd Tony Miles

THE BLESSING

Revd Tony Miles

VIDEO OUTRO ORGAN

Ride of the Valkyries - Richard Wagner (Brooks)

If you would like to make your offering – please go to www.give.net/mchw
(A 15% tithe is given to various charitable causes)

All songs covered by CCL (Europe) Ltd have been **reproduced under CCL No. 45497**

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London. SW1H 9NH
Registered Charity No. 1145076

