



Sunday 7th January

Everyone is welcome in Orchardhill.

Before our service begins at 10.30am, you're free to have a tea or coffee and browse through what's happening. Feel free to sit wherever you wish.

Join us, too, for drinks and chat after the service.

To find out more about anything in Orchardhill, just ask someone or visit www.orchardhill.org.uk

We celebrate the sacrament of Communion in our worship today and welcome all who love the Lord and who respond in faith to his invitation, 'Take, eat.'

Like a candle in the night –
flick'ring, dancing, far from bright –
shadows leaping,
hostile greeting –
Bethlehem's fragile light.
O light of life and light of love
let us all your brightness prove.
Each refining, set us shining –
our darkness now remove.

Dawn of hope in Galilee,
can your presence set us free?
Teaching, healing,
truth revealing,
help us your light to see!

Noonday dark on Calv'ry's hill;
evil forces met to kill –
life relinquished,
hope extinguished –
but you are with us still.

Resurrection morning bright;
death is beaten in the fight.
Jesus' glory
now our story –
all of us share his light!

John Campbell John 1:4-9 Suggested tune: We three kings of Orient are
ccli licence 20979

Chosen people in the desert,
by life tempted, tested, tried:
will they triumph in the struggle,
trust in God and stay alive?
They must wait for heav'nly manna
all false gods must be denied.
This the only route to blessing –
trust this God and they'll survive!

Son of God, baptised in Jordan,
now is tempted, tested, tried;
starts his lonely, desert struggle,
trusts in God so he'll survive:
now rejects all selfish short cuts;
now stands back from greed and pride;
now, for us, resists the tempter,
God alone keeps him alive!

He gave his life in selfless love,
for sinful man he came.
He had no stain of sin himself
but bore our guilt and shame.
He took the cup of pain and death,
his blood was freely shed.
We see his body on the cross,
we share the living bread.

He did not come to call the good
but sinners to repent.
It was the lame, the deaf, the blind
for whom his life was spent:
to heal the sick, to find the lost -
it was for such he came;
and round his table all may come
to praise his holy name.

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of
Him
who brings good news, good news,
proclaiming peace,
announcing news of happiness,
our God reigns, our God reigns!
Our God reigns, our God reigns,
our God reigns, our God reigns.

Son of Man, betrayed and sentenced,
once more taunted, tested, tried.
On a cross, for us, he suffers;
for our rescue now he dies;
faithful 'til his final heartbeat,
facing death, eyes open wide,
gives his all that we might ever
trust in God and stay alive.

We, like Jesus, called and chosen,
daily tempted, tested, tried,
challenged by relentless struggle,
must trust God so we'll survive.
We, too, know corrupting pressures,
face seductive compromise;
by Christ's death and through his Spirit,
we'll trust God and stay alive!

John Campbell Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13 Suggested tune: Come, thou fount of every blessing © 2016 Kevin Mayhew Ltd ccli licence 20979

They heard him call his Father's name
then 'Finished!' was his cry.
Like them we have forsaken him
and left him there to die.
The sins that crucified him then
are sins his blood has cured.
The love that bound him to a cross
our freedom has ensured.

His body broken once for us
is glorious now above.
The cup of blessing we receive,
a sharing of his love:
as in his presence we partake,
his dying we proclaim;
until the hour of majesty
when Jesus comes again.

Christopher Porteous; MP 214 ccli licence 20979

You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as
one,
shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
your God reigns, your God reigns!
Your God reigns, your God reigns,
your God reigns, your God reigns!

Leonard E Smith Jr © 1974 Kingsway's Thankyou Music ccli licence 20979

Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and He holds us in His hands.
(repeat)

He's higher than a skyscraper and He's deeper than a submarine.

He's wider than the universe and beyond my wildest dreams.

And He's known me and He's loved me since before the world began.

How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan.

Jo Hemming & Nigel Hemming © 2001 Vineyard Songs
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Scripture Luke 3:1-22

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar ... during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation."'

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

...

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

Intimations

Minister's Absence January – February Family health issues (a type of radiotherapy treatment for Katie which is provided in the US) means Grant shan't be around in person during the rest of January and almost all February. If you need to speak to a Minister in person, local colleagues are happy to assist:

Catherine Beattie - 258 7804 Calum Macdonald - 638 3023 Jan Mathieson - 579 9997

You can also still contact Grant both by email at minister@orchardhill.org.uk and by using the WhatsApp smartphone application - the relevant mobile number is +447506 549529. Please don't text, but do use WhatsApp both for text and voice calls. And if you wish to Skype, we can certainly try that, too!

The treatment is all pretty positive - whilst Katie does have cancer, the tumour has been removed and this treatment aims to eradicate any remaining cells. Your prayers are of course appreciated, but not in preference to others whose needs at this time are considerable. We'll keep you posted about progress.

Ringingslight changes From this week we're going to begin worship by meeting in separate age-related groups and then come together towards the end of our worship. We hope this sign of movement towards unity and inclusion is helpful, and will allow us to hear what younger members have been up to.

Next Sunday's service Next Sunday, our worship is slightly more structured with greater congregational response and the choir's leading.

Space to Think On Wednesday 10th January from 6pm until 7pm we're opening the church to allow anyone who wishes to come in and have a place to sit quietly and think. We're offering a short time of reflection from 6.30 until 6.45 in an area of the church for those who wish. You're welcome, as is anyone who lives, works or is about the area.

Pastoral Visiting Team If you are aware of anyone in our congregation or community you think might value regular contact by a member of our Visiting Team, in the first instance please email details to secretary@orchardhill.org.uk.

The Choir restarts for our 2018 session on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm in The Church – old and new members will be made very welcome as we work towards monthly anthems, Easter and a Spring musical offering.

Orchardhill Vision You're invited to spend a little longer in church on 28th January over coffee to hear more about our six vision areas - and considering where you might fit in. We aim to finish by 12.15pm.

A Vision for our Community If you'd like to learn more about, and become involved with, our vision for our community you're welcome along to a meeting on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm in the Fellowship Room where we'll take things further.

Orchardhill Record Sunday 14th January is the deadline for contributions for the Orchardhill Record's February edition.

History Reading Group Meets in the Church Lounge next Monday, 15th January at 7.30pm to discuss pp. 689 - 769 of MacCulloch's History of Christianity.

Being Involved in our Community There's a day conference in Orchardhill on Thursday 25th January from 11 until 3 when Alan and Elaine from the local authority will help us plan the next steps we can take to become more involved in our community. This is one of our six vision areas and we would love to see you.

CHIPS A winter CHIPS is on Saturday 27th January 2018 for teens. If you want to join in the fun come to the memorial halls on "Chocolate Day" at 7.15pm

Life & Work A reminder to those who subscribe to Life & Work that the annual subscription of £30.00 is now due. Jim and Aileen Blair will be available in the Fellowship Room after the service on Sunday 28th January to collect the subscriptions. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to Orchardhill Parish Church)