



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025 – Advent 1**

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Psalm 122**

1 I was glad when they said to me, ♦  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'  
2 And now our feet are standing ♦  
within your gates, O Jerusalem;  
3 Jerusalem, built as a city ♦  
that is at unity in itself.  
4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ♦  
as is decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, ♦  
the thrones of the house of David.  
6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ♦  
'May they prosper who love you.  
7 'Peace be within your walls ♦  
and tranquillity within your palaces.'  
8 For my kindred and companions' sake, ♦  
I will pray that peace be with you.  
9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ♦  
I will seek to do you good.

**A reading from the letter to the Romans, chapter 13, verses 11-14.**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:***

The second reading is from Matthew, chapter 24, verses 36-44.

***and then at the end:***

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

***For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):***

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 24, verses 36-44.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

***And then at the end:***

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

## ***A Reflection from Hannah...***

How often have you used tiredness as an excuse for... almost anything. Mistakes, not doing exercise, leaving cleaning the bathroom for yet another day, forgetting to send a card in time for someone's birthday... I think I've used it as a reason for all those 'fails' in the last week alone!

In Paul's letter to the Romans, we are urged to wake up. As we descend into Advent, feeling the darkness drawing in, snuggling round the fire and bunkering down, we might assume it's a time for sweet drowsiness- almost like Ratty and Mole in the Wind in the Willows, who spend their winter in hygge hibernation. But we would be wrong in that assumption. Advent is about watchfulness and waiting- it is about being alert to the signs of God at work around us, and hopeful anticipation about the triumphant return of Jesus. As we remember the 400 year breath between the old and new testaments; the waiting, the longing, the yearning for the coming of the messiah; we pay attention to the need to be attentive in our waiting now- to long for the justice, mercy and everlasting peace that characterises the fullness of God-with-us, Emmanuel. It's time to wake up!

And in doing that, we are made aware of our vulnerability- both as people living with foreboding and threat; and as people who are eager about the coming of God's kingdom. Which feels more real? Where is the discomfort, dis-ease? Where is the hope? A bit like the famous picture of the wave (below), there is an invitation to stay awake, alert to the possibilities around us- in wonder and in terror, noticing our smallness and absence of agency. All we can do is depend on God- to show us the ways of light and life and to come to our aid. As we gaze up at the wave, from our tiny boat (whatever we might feel), to embrace the advent attitude is to wake up!

