

***From darkness to light:  
A service for the first Sunday of Advent  
held in the church of St Mary, Longcot***

*The service begins in darkness as the light of Christ, from the Paschal Candle, is spread among us from the back of the church.*

**The Choir Sing** “Let all mortal flesh keep silence.”

We await the Christ: **the one who will reveal God to us.**

He comes to us as sparkling light: **twinkling with joy and playfulness.**

He comes to us as everyday light: **brightening the ordinary world around us.**

He comes to us as softened light: **creating a gentle, healing space in the shadows.**

He comes to us as a focused spotlight: **bring truth and justice into stark relief.**

This is the light of the world: **Jesus Christ, coming to shine among us.**

*The lights are turned on and candles extinguished*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5 “And God Said Let There Be Light”

**Advent Hymn 223:** Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Psalm 13 “Give Light to My eyes lest I sleep in death”

**Advent Hymn 449:** Lo! He Comes with clouds descending

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** Baruch 4:36-5.9 “Look to the East”

**Choir:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**Advent Hymn 307:** Hills of the North Rejoice

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-15 “Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive”

**Advent Hymn 140:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

**5<sup>th</sup> Reading:** Luke 1:26-33 “The Birth of Jesus is Announced to Mary by the Message of an Angel”

**Choir:** A Child is Born in Bethlehem.

**6<sup>th</sup> Reading:** Luke 1:68-79 “The Song of Zechariah at the Birth of John the Baptist”

**Advent Hymn 286:** Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

**Choir and Hand Bells:** A Christmas Canon of Peace.

Collect and Blessing

**Advent Hymn 584:** Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Now, as we enter this time of waiting, stay with us, Lord. **Stay with us, Lord.**

Soon, as we say goodbye to each other, stay with us, Lord. **Stay with us, Lord.**

Always and everywhere, as we travel homewards, stay with us, Lord. **Stay with us, Lord.**

**Amen**