

# Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Andy Lowe



**Welcome to church today.** If you are visiting us we hope you will make yourself known before you leave. Please do join us for coffee after morning worship.

**Bibles & Large Print Hymn Books** are available at the back of the church and there is a **loop system** for the hard of hearing, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'. We always try to address individual needs to the best of our ability. Please let us know if there's something we can do to improve what we currently offer.

**Offering:** If you would like to make a financial contribution our offering plate is located at the back of the church. We now also have a Card Reader for donating with your Debit/Credit card. Or you can still donate via JustGiving: [www.justgiving.com/dgmc](http://www.justgiving.com/dgmc)

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10.30 am**

**Advent Worship with Communion**

**Led by Revd Andy Lowe**

**Keyboard Player Will Mason**

**Tel: 01273 605502   Email: [office@dgmc.org.uk](mailto:office@dgmc.org.uk)**

# Welcome

## Advent Liturgy

### Advent Four: Mary

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

**I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to his word.**

*The fourth candle is lit.*

Leader: Jesus is the light of the world.

**All: A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing StF 165 (vs 1 & 4) The Advent Candle Song:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story? -  
cross and glory; empty tomb!

**Hymn** O Come, light's dawning, burn within my soul,  
the tinder of my heart you can make whole.  
O come, ignite my passion to see

the truth of who I am, who I can be.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
To fear I bid farewell  
that light may come within my heart to dwell.

O come, light's beauty, come amongst and cheer  
Our spirits by your radiant presence here.  
O come, ignite our passion to see  
that we can live in peace and harmony.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
To anger bid farewell  
that light may come within our hearts to dwell.

O come, light's wisdom, be our certain guide  
as arrogance and greed we set aside.  
O come, ignite our passion to see  
the beauty born in all humanity.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
To priv'lege bid farewell  
that light may come within our hearts to dwell.

O come, light's piercing truth, come and reveal  
all that our planet needs from us to heal.  
O come ignite our passion to see  
the splendour in Earth's vast diversity.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
To darkness bid farewell  
that light may come within our hearts to dwell.

By Gretta Vosper, inspired by words translated  
From the Latin by John Mason Neale, 1851

**Prayer**

## **Intergenerational**

**Hymn StF 176**      Like a candle flame

**Readings**      Isaiah 7: 10-16      Read by Tony Leonard  
Matthew 1: 18-25

### **Sermon**

**Hymn StF 222**      Who would think

### **Prayers**

**Hymn**      Come to the table of grace.  
Come to the table of grace.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace...

Come to the table of love....

Come to the table of hope....

Come to the table of joy...

Barbara Hamm, 2008  
© 2008 Hope Publishing

### **Communion**

**Hymn StF 186**      Tell out, my soul

### **Blessing**

**Next Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Deeptima Massey

**6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion**

Led by Revd Cynthia Park

***Please note: There will be NO Prayer & Praise or Open House  
on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.***

### **News and Notices**

**Graham Wall:** We are greatly saddened to give you the news that Graham died peacefully on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at his care home in Littlehampton. As most of you know, he was the partner of the late Alan Cutting and a much-loved member of our church family. Funeral arrangements will be shared in due course. Please continue to hold Graham's family and friends in your prayers.

**Alan Saunders:** It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Alan on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Worthing Hospital, following a short illness. Alan was a much-loved local preacher in the Brighton & Hove Circuit (completing 70 years of faithful service), and was known to many as a mentor, brother, and friend. His faith, wisdom, and quiet generosity of spirit touched countless lives, both within our church community and beyond. Alan leaves behind his loving family, including his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and we give thanks for his life, his ministry, and his faithful service. Funeral arrangements will be shared in due course. Please continue to hold Alan's family and friends in your prayers.

**Food and Fellowship:** Today. We do hope you can all stay on after morning worship!

**Community Carol Service:** Christmas Eve, 4 pm here at Dorset Gardens with VMCC and including Communion. Hot drinks and mince pies served from 3.30 pm and refreshments afterwards provided by VMCC.

**Christmas Collection:** As is our custom, our Christmas Day collection will go to **Action for Children**, the Methodist Charity which supports children and families in the UK.

If you are away for Christmas but would like to make a donation, envelopes are available. Thank you for your support.

**Covenant Service:** On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January, we will be commissioning all who contribute to the life and ministry of the church. This special service is an opportunity to affirm, bless, and give thanks for the many ways people serve within our church community. All are warmly welcome to attend.



### Flowers

The lovely flowers in church today come courtesy of the Dorset Gardens Flower Fund.



# ***Advent & Christmas***

***At Dorset Gardens Methodist Church***

**Sunday 14 December ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

**10.30 am, Advent Worship**

**Sunday 21 December ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10.30 am, Advent Worship with Communion**

**Christmas Eve**

**4 pm, Community Carol Service**

**with the VMCC and including Communion**

(Tea, coffee & mince pies from 3.30 pm and refreshments  
afterwards provided by VMCC)

**Christmas Day**

**10.30 am, Christmas Celebration!**

**Sunday 28 December**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

**6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion**

***Everyone Welcome!***