

Advent Carol Service 1986 1

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Date: 30 November 1986

Preacher: Harry Robinson

[0 : 00] The final reading is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, beginning with verse 13. But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command. With the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

[1 : 11] And so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. But as to the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you.

For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say there is peace and security, Then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child.

And there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day.

We are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not sleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

For those who sleep, sleep at night. And those who get drunk are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, put on the breastplate of faith and love, And for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

[2 : 30] For God has not destined us for wrong, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, so that whether we wake or sleep, we might live with him.

Therefore, encourage one another, build one another up, just as you are doing. This is the word of the Lord.

Please kneel for the prayers. This is the word of hiding.

Judah and Jerusalem, Fear not, nor be dismayed. The morrow will be of ■un, and the Lord will be of us.

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord. The morrow will be of ■un, and the Lord will be of us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

[3 : 54] We wait for thy lovingkindness, O Lord. O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him, when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good.

Render to no man evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all men.

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this night and always.

Would you please be seated for just a moment? I'd just like to make two very brief announcements.

[5 : 28] First of all, we're very happy to see so many of you who are visitors in our midst, and you, along with all of the congregation, are invited to the parish hall directly behind the church after the

service.

For some hot cider before you make your way home on a cold and wet night. Secondly, if you're a visitor, we'd also like to invite you at this time to return three weeks from tonight, the Sunday night before Christmas, for the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols, as a way of preparing yourself to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Now we sing together our final hymn, number 193. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[7 : 54] Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

[12 : 54] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.