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Weekly Letter – 30 November 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF



Matthew 24.36-44

**The God who removes our dark glasses,
and for a brief moment opens our eyes**

We move from Luke's gospel to Mathew's, and I'm sure over the coming four weeks you will see and feel Matthew's style and emphasis. We also move from 'ordinary time' to Advent, and this is quite a change, as the readings are to ensure we are better prepared to welcome the Christ Child – i.e. we are encouraged to open our hearts and have them renewed. Why? Well, we will soon be faced with the bewildering implications of the Incarnation. For we will all be asked this key question, 'What could life be like with 'Emmanuel' – 'God is with us'?

Perhaps it might be helpful for you to know that the writer has always struggled to understand how best to enter into the spirit of Advent, as at times it all seems somewhat overwhelming. That said, I love this season of Advent, and I hope you do.

To our gospel reading! This passage has a bit of pizzazz and a clear message, which is reinforced within the final verse v.44, "so too you must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come".

Contained in this verse, and the whole passage is an undeniable truth. 'Don't forget our lives are short'. Jesus Christ focuses on this because, as he so often does, he is calling you to expand the horizon of your heart, and therefore to pray for the strength to seek truth, love God's laws, and cherish the eternal prize offered to you. Or put it this way, look at your daily life and the certainties you hold, and ask is there room for improvement? And perhaps here's the key! God has so much to offer all of us.

It's never been Christ's style to cause you fear or anxiety, rather his incisive words are offered to stimulate you into action, to encourage you to love, and love truth.

To be able to give greater focus to this, the passage also expresses what we need to remove from our lives, for example, being controlled by too many material concerns, or not being aware of our neighbours needs, and equally important closing our hearts to Jesus' concern for our future lives. For Christ is saying, "Everyday matters, so yes, have one eye on the material world, but you need an eye on heaven".

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling.
and will include the Election of Elders.**

Bible Readings: verses from Matthew 1: 1-17: Genesis 12.1-9.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – Uniting Church, Sketty

Tuesday – 2nd December - Tea and Chat – 2-4pm – Christmas Craft

Wednesday 3rd December - Advent discussions – at 3pm in the Lounge

Please join us on Wednesday for a time of reflection and conversation about advent themes.

There will also be another opportunity in person at 3pm on 10th December in the Lounge, and then an online conversation at 7pm on 16th December.

Dates for your Diary

Christ Well Carols by Candlelight. 6 pm – Sunday, 21st December - Community Carol Service

Swansea Male Voice Choir will be joining us.

Church Charity Christmas Card – (in lieu of cards) will be available from 5th December.

Donations will be for the Alzheimer's Association.

Christmas Day Morning Worship – 10am.

WAR TO EVERLASTING PEACE

(Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 2.1-5: Romans 13.11-14: Psalm 122: Matthew 21.1-11 or Matthew 24.36-44)

Loving Friend, Comforter Jesus – Prince of Peace, You who bring the gift of Shalom. We seek you now.

Many throughout time and generations have longed for the same dream: peace on earth.

No more wars, no whispers of conflict. It seems simple to close our eyes and imagine a world transformed by those walking in the light of the Lord, into peace.

Let us take a candle of hope, and ignite it with the fire of faith.

In this season of Advent, we wait with joyful hearts the fulfilment of Your promise, where nations will turn their swords and weapons into ploughshares, and hearts of violence into those that seek the well-being of their neighbours and global siblings.

Nations shall not lift up swords against one another; neither shall they learn war anymore. Teach us to walk in Your paths and guide us in Your ways. May we live each day in the light of Your coming, with hearts full of hope, joy, and anticipation.

Lord, as we journey through this Advent season, fill us with the immersive joy of Your presence, fill us with the immersive joy of Your presence, so that we may live in the light of Your love and spread Your peace and joy throughout the world. Grant us that peace within our own hearts and homes and let us be agents of Your peace in the world. **Amen.**

Stephen Ansa-Addo (URC Prayer Handbook 2025)

Please help us to spread some Christmas cheer

Our seven foodbank centres across Swansea at Clydach, Gorseinon, Mayhill, Penlan, Port Tennant, Uplands and West Cross are expecting to supply emergency food to 4,000 people, including 2,000 children in the run-up to Christmas. **We are very short of food since we lost over half our donations from the public donation point at Tesco Fforestfach** to other organisations that have been allowed by the store to start collecting food there. **Our Foodbank Centres in two of Wales's most deprived communities at Penlan and Mayhill relied on the donations from Fforestfach. Their ability to continue providing food parcels is seriously affected.** We don't have enough food or money to meet demand, so we are hoping that the generosity of local communities across Swansea will enable us to carry on helping the less fortunate this Christmas.

We need to raise £12,000 in food or financial donations to be able to carry on. If you are able to, please help us by collecting food and donating it to one of our centres or drop it off at Christ Well. Ideally, we need Christmas food before **Friday 5 December**, to allow us time to sort it and distribute it in food parcels over the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

SWANSEA FOODBANK

**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL 2025**

**No one should go hungry
this Christmas.**



Together, we can
make sure everyone in
Swansea has a meal —
and hope — this Christmas.
#SwanseaFoodbank

WHAT WE NEED:

- Tinned meats, puddings and custard
- UHT milk & juice
- Biscuits, chocolate and festive treats
- Toiletries and household essentials

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ✓ Drop off donations at your nearest collection point
- ✓ Donate online to support our emergency food parcels
- ✓ Share this post to spread the word!



**Swansea
Foodbank**
Banc Bwyd Abertawe

**THIS CHRISTMAS
YOUR DONATION
CAN HELP A
LOCAL FAMILY
IN NEED.**

**EVERY POUND
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**





**HELP US
REACH OUR
£12,000
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL TARGET!**



Every donation helps
feed families in Swansea
this Christmas.

