



## Morning Worship

November 2021

**A promise of  
reconciliation and  
redemption**

Our service this morning is based on the last part of the Book of Job, where Job is reconciled and restored. It is also Advent Sunday when we start to look forward to our reconciliation and being restored through Christ.

### **Opening Prayer: Lighting the First Advent Candle – Reflecting on the Patriarchs**

**Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith  
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.  
May we be obedient to your call  
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,  
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for you are our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Reading 1 - Job 38: 1-7 & 40: 1-5**

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup> “Who is this who darkens counsel  
with words without knowledge?  
<sup>3</sup> Get ready for a difficult task like a man;  
I will question you  
and you will inform me.

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you  
when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you possess understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who set its measurements—if you know—  
or who stretched a measuring line across it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases set,  
or who laid its cornerstone—

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang in chorus,  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>40</sup> <sup>2</sup> “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?  
Let the person who accuses God give him an answer!”

<sup>3</sup> Then Job answered the LORD:

<sup>4</sup> “Indeed, I am completely unworthy—how could I reply to you?  
I put my hand over my mouth to silence myself.

<sup>5</sup> I have spoken once, but I cannot answer;  
twice, but I will say no more.”

## **Reading 2 - Job 40: 6-14 & 42: 1-6**

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

<sup>7</sup> “Get ready for a difficult task like a man.  
I will question you and you will inform me.

<sup>8</sup> Would you indeed annul my justice?  
Would you declare me guilty so that you might be right?

<sup>9</sup> Do you have an arm as powerful as God’s,  
and can you thunder with a voice like his?

<sup>10</sup> Adorn yourself, then, with majesty and excellency,  
and clothe yourself with glory and honor.

<sup>11</sup> Scatter abroad the abundance of your anger.  
Look at every proud man and bring him low;

<sup>12</sup> Look at every proud man and abase him;  
crush the wicked on the spot.

<sup>13</sup> Hide them in the dust together,  
imprison them in the grave.

<sup>14</sup> Then I myself will acknowledge to you  
that your own right hand can save you.

<sup>42</sup> Then Job answered the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> “I know that you can do all things;  
no purpose of yours can be thwarted;

<sup>3</sup> you asked, 'Who is this who darkens counsel without knowledge?'

But I have declared without understanding  
things too wonderful for me to know.

<sup>4</sup> You said, 'Pay attention, and I will speak;  
I will question you, and you will answer me.'

<sup>5</sup> I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye has seen you.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself,  
and I repent in dust and ashes!"

### **Reading 3 - Job 42: 10-17**

<sup>10</sup> So the LORD restored what Job had lost after he prayed for his friends, and the LORD doubled all that had belonged to Job. <sup>11</sup> So they came to him, all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they dined with him in his house. They comforted him and consoled him for all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

<sup>12</sup> So the LORD blessed the second part of Job's life more than the first. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. <sup>13</sup> And he also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>14</sup> The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-Happuch. <sup>15</sup> Nowhere in all the land could women be found who were as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance alongside their brothers.

<sup>16</sup> After this Job lived 140 years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.

<sup>17</sup> And so Job died, old and full of days.

### **Reading 4 - Luke 21: 25-28**

<sup>25</sup> "And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth nations will be in distress, anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves. <sup>26</sup> People will be fainting from fear and from the expectation of what is coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> But when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

## **Reflection**

At the end of the Book of Job, the Lord answers and challenges Job who is humbled and restored.

God appears to Job twice and recites the power and marvels that are beyond human understanding. The ways of God, and divine justice, cannot be satisfactorily explained in human terms. Job submits twice that he has misunderstood the nature of divine justice.

God then turns to Job's three friends who had wrongfully accused Job of being wicked because they too had not understood the nature of divine justice. The friends are forgiven through honouring Job. God then restores Job to his previous greatness. Job is reconciled and redeemed.

A happy ending which reminds us, that whatever difficulties we may face, there will be restoration. As is the promise to us of reconciliation and redemption through Christ. This is the message of Advent Sunday revealed in Luke 21: 25-28, the Son of Man coming in great power and glory. Looking forward to the second coming and the 'bigger picture of God' which is the message of Job – God's ways are not our ways, and we are just a small part in a big picture, of which we have such little understanding. But we can be assured that we will be reconciled and restored.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever. Amen**

### **Closing prayer:**

**May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.  
May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.  
May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.  
Amen.**

**Grace:**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**And the love of God,**

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.**

**Amen.**