



THE PARISH EUCHARIST

during Advent

'O root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long; come and save us and delay no longer.'

O Radix Jesse – from the plainsong antiphons of Advent.

Please return this booklet after the service

The Season of Advent

ADVENT is a solemn and beautiful season that marks the beginning of the Church year. It is a time of watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, the true light. We wait both for the birth of the Baby in the manger, God made flesh, and for Christ's second coming, as glorious King and Judge of the entire world. It is a season of hope and expectation, of new beginnings; a time to go inwards, to prepare to welcome the Christ-child into our hearts and lives – whether afresh, or for the first time.

However, in our society, it seems as though Christmas is already here, and has been for some time. This period is often a time of busyness, usually set aside for shopping or last-minute arrangements for Christmas Day. As Christians, our worship offers the opportunity for us to stop, and step out of our frantic lives; to give proper attention to real spiritual preparation for the coming of the divine Word. Here, we are invited to contemplate the story of our salvation, the story that God has been weaving for centuries and continues to weave, as He prepares our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

By listening to the scriptures filled with God's promises of salvation, we may have a renewed sense of confidence that God does, indeed, come to us when we seek him in prayer and that, come Christmas morning, we feel enabled to join with the angels and shepherds in greeting our Lord Jesus with hearts and minds prepared for the joy of his Incarnation. So let us watch, and wait, and pray. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A prayer to say before the service:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the first Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND NOTICES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand. Hymn numbers can be found in the pewsheets or on hymnboard

THE GATHERING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYERS AT THE ADVENT WREATH

Each week of Advent we light a candle as we journey together, preparing ourselves for Jesus coming, both his coming amongst us at that first Christmas and also when he shall come again to be our Judge, and bring us to reign with him in heaven.

Advent I

Patriarchs and Matriarchs

We light a candle to remember those who first received the faith and responded to God's call.

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs and matriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today.

Amen.

The service continues on page 5

Advent 2

Prophets

We light a candle to remember those who helped call God's people back to faith when they had strayed from God's call.

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.

The service continues on page 5

Advent 3

John the Baptist

We light a candle to remember John, who was the final prophet to speak of Jesus' coming before his ministry began.

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

The service continues on page 5

We light a candle to remember Mary, whose whole-hearted response to God, made possible Jesus' coming amongst us, as she conceived and gave birth to the Son of God.

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A voice cries in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Sit or kneel

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

**Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

please remain kneeling or seated for THE COLLECT

Let us pray

*The President says the Collect of the Day, at the end of which all say **Amen.***

Sit for the OLD or NEW TESTAMENT READING

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN or PSALM may be sung

THE GOSPEL READING

Stand and turn to face the Gospel.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the SERMON

Stand for THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will with have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. † Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

The President introduces the prayers and the congregation kneels.

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand for THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Congregation shake hands with those immediately around them, saying 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERTORY HYMN

During the Offertory hymn, the altar is prepared.

*Normally a collection is gathered and the gifts processed to the altar. If you would consider offering a gift to the Church to support our ministry, please do so in the collection plate on your way out (cash or card).
Thank you for your gift.*

Remain standing

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

From 17 December until Christmas Eve

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God
and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our
hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest!**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
John the Baptist, Alban and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour
has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president invites the people to Communion saying:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

All Baptised Christians who normally receive Communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. Please follow directions of the stewards.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Remain kneeling or seated.*

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray

The president prays the Post-Communion of the day at the end of which all say
Amen.

All then join in the following prayer

**Generous God, you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face, who with you and the
Spirit lives for ever. Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

CHRIST the sun of righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

Remain standing as an Organ Voluntary begins and the RECESSION takes place.

You are invited to join us afterwards in the Parish Hall for refreshments.
Don't forget to take home a copy of the pewsheet.

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