

Christ Church Holy Communion for Advent Sunday: 28 November 2021

Greeting:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. *Ps 25, vs 4,5*

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Lighting the first Advent Candle – for Hope

O God, we light the first candle of Advent. We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

We light the first candle.

Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and that you reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

We pray for our children and their leaders as they go out to Flames

Song:

INTO THE DARKNESS of this world,
Into the shadows of the night;
Into this loveless place You came,
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
And made these hearts Your home.
Into the darkness once again –
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with Your love
To make us whole,
Come with Your light
To lead us on,
Driving the darkness
Far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls,
Into these heavy hearts of stone,
Shine on us now Your piercing light,
Order our lives and souls aright,
By grace and love unknown,
Until in You our hearts unite –
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place,
Till all the earth declares Your praise
And Your great mercies own.
Now let Your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

(Last Chorus)
*Come in Your glory,
Take Your place,
Jesus, the Name above all names,
We long to see You face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Penitence:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Song:

PURIFY MY HEART,

Let me be as gold
And precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold,
Pure gold.

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You, my Master,
Ready to do Your will.*

Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin,
Deep within.

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Songs:

FATHER IN HEAVEN, HOW WE LOVE YOU,

We lift Your name in all the earth.
May Your kingdom be established in our praises
As Your people declare Your mighty works.

Blessèd be the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come;
Blessèd be the Lord God Almighty,
Who reigns forever more.

MAJESTY, worship His majesty,
Unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne unto His own,
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

The Collect:

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 Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen

The Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16; This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21:25-36; This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Song:

INTO YOUR HANDS I commit again
All that I am for You, Lord.
You hold my world in the palm of Your hand,
And I am Yours forever.

*Jesus, I believe in You.
Jesus, I belong to You.
You're the reason that I live,
The reason that I sing
With all I am.*

I'll walk with You wherever You go;
Through tears and joy I'll trust in You.
And I will live in all of Your ways
And Your promises forever.

I will worship, I will worship You.
I will worship, I will worship You. (*Repeat*)

Our faith:

We say together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'; Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

cf Revelation 4.8,11;5.9;22.17,20

The Prayers: concluding with: **merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.**

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 in 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.**

Offertory Hymn:

LIGHT OF THE WORLD,

You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God;
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
(Repeat)

The Communion:

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.**

And now we give you thanks because you sent your Son Jesus Christ to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

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:

**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 you and bless you, loving Father...

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

...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:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

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.**

We share bread and wine together.

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Notices

Closing Hymn:

LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING,

Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:
Come, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!

The Blessing:

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

All words reproduced under CCLI licence number 1829