

Holy Communion – 3rd Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2022

Lighting of the Advent Candle

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own.

From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways.

You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Prayer with FLAMES

Call to Worship

God's Spirit has led us here.

And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

God's Spirit has led us here.

And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

God's Spirit has led us here.

And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

God's Spirit has led us here.

And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the place,

And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

Hymn: Be still for the presence

Recognising our sin

Before God, and in the presence of one another, we acknowledge how our lives are often marred by impurity and insincerity

Silence

Forgive us for the times we forget, when we lose hope, joy, love and peace.

Forgive us when we live by our human anxieties rather than by your Spirit.

Forgive us when we narrow your greatness, by setting our own limitations.

Silence

We thank you that each of us is forgiven and loved, not by our human actions, but because of your immense grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song: Thank you for saving me

Today's Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35.1-10

Ending with This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Hark the glad sound

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11.2-11

Ending with This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Our Belief

Let us proclaim our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us, and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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.
(Luke 1.78,79)

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **And also with you.**
We offer one another a sign of peace.

Song: Take, eat, this is My body

The Communion

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You gave us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your 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.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

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

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

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.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

During Communion you have an opportunity for prayers to be offered. Please go to those who will pray with you, if you wish.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of Home Communions

Notices

Hymn: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Blessing and Dismissal

Go in peace, - and may God, our three in one, the source of true hope, peace and joy, gift you with open hands so you are able to both give and to receive his blessings: may he impart unto you an open heart so that you are able to welcome him in whatever form he takes; and may he grant you an open mind, so that you are able to recognise his presence even in the midst of this world's darkness, this both now and forevermore. **Amen.**