

Christ Church Holy Communion - Advent Sunday, 3rd December 2023

Welcome and gathering worship

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. *Romans 13:11*

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you. Amen

Song: Come, now is the time to worship

Lighting the first Advent candle

The leader, with the help of a volunteer, lights the first of the four Advent candles

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you as we journey through Advent, so that we are ready to receive Jesus with all our hearts, all our minds and all our strength. Amen

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

Hymn: O Lord, the clouds are gathering

We say sorry to God and one another

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.

We keep a short time of silence before we pray together.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight.

We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love.

Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer of forgiveness

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”, who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.**

Praise Songs: King of Kings, Majesty;

Collect prayer for today:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1 :3-9

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark; **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 13:24-end

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

Sermon

Song: Taize Chant

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Our belief

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.

Prayers of intercession

(at the end) **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: Broken for me

The Communion

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

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 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.

...Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, 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, forever 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

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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, Eat in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We share bread and wine together

During the sharing of communion there will be an opportunity for prayer for healing. If you would like prayer or a simple blessing then please move to the 'prayer place' to the left where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

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, banns and sharing in Flames

Closing hymn: One shall tell another

The Blessing

Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in our world, that all may believe in you; 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