

Holy Communion on Advent Sunday, 1st December 2024

Welcome and gathering worship

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,

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship,

Come, just as you are before your God.

Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still, the greatest treasure remains for those

Who gladly choose You now.

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.

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.**

Hymn

RESTORE, O LORD,

The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That men may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner’s fire

Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here.

Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That men may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

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

Advent Meditation including Taize Chant

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

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 – ‘I will answer your prayer and your waiting will end in joy’

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

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

JESUS, STAND AMONG US

At the meeting of our lives;
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.

O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

So to You we're gathering
Out of each and every land;
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands.

O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

Jesus, stand among us
At the breaking of the bread;
Join us as one body
As we worship You, our Head.

O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

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 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.

Question (Adults) Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer (Young Children) Listen, and we will hear.

Older Children:

Lord of all life,

you created the universe,

where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth,

to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times

and things to celebrate.

In these we taste your kingdom,

a feast for all your children.

You made us all,

each wonderfully different,

to join with the angels

and sing your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Older children continue...

We thank you, loving Father,

because, when we turned away,

you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross

**and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.**

***Question (Adults)* Why do we share this bread and wine?**

***Answer (Younger children)* Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

***Question (Adults)* How do we follow Jesus Christ?**

***Answer (Younger children)* Listen, and we will hear.**

***All:* Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now, with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for 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 and sharing in Flames

Closing hymns

BE BOLD, BE STRONG,

For the Lord your God is with you.

Be bold, be strong,

For the Lord your God is with you.

I am not afraid,

I am not dismayed,

Because I'm walking in faith and victory,

Come on and walk in faith and victory,

For the Lord your God is with you.

AN ARMY OF ORDINARY PEOPLE,

A kingdom where love is the key,
A city, a light to the nations,
Heirs to the promise are we.
A people whose life is in Jesus,
A nation together we stand.
Only through grace are we worthy,
Inheritors of the land.

*A new day is dawning,
A new age to come,
When the children of promise
Shall flow together as one.
A truth long neglected,
But the time has now come
When the children of promise
Shall flow together as one.*

A people without recognition,
But with Him a destiny sealed,
Called to a heavenly vision,
His purpose shall be fulfilled.
Come, let us stand strong together,
Abandon ourselves to the King,
His love shall be ours forever,
This victory song we shall sing.

The Blessing

Children: 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; Amen.

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