

A Service of Holy Communion for Advent



The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

WE LIGHT THE 2ND CANDLE ON THE ADVENT RING

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.**

JUNIOR CHURCH LEAVES & NOTICES

Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people. *Isaiah 52.9*

HYMN: On Jordan's bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh
Come then and listen for He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings

Then cleansed be every heart from sin
Make straight the way for God within
Prepare we in our hearts a home
Where such a mighty guest may come

For You are our salvation Lord
Our refuge and our great reward
Without Your grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay

To heal the sick stretch out Your hand
Make wholeness flow at Your command
Sins devastation now restore, Earths own true loveliness once more

To Him who left the throne of heaven
To save mankind all praise be given
To God the Father voices raise, and Holy Spirit let us praise

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and 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.

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.**

THE COLLECT (on the Weekly Sheet)

1ST READING: Isaiah 11.1–10 (on the Weekly Sheet)

HYMN: 10,000 reasons

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul...

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul...

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul...

(Repeat)

I'll worship your Holy name (x2)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 3.1–12 (on the Weekly Sheet)

SERMON

THE CREED

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

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We remember those who need God's presence with them...

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember those who have died in the faith of Christ...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **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.**

HYMN: Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone cornerstone...

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone cornerstone... (REPEAT)

EUCCHARIST PRAYER H

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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

And now we give you thanks because when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way of salvation. So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and 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.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

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 for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

**God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Communion is received

Please hold out one hand for a wafer and two for a wafer dipped in wine, for a blessing please keep your hands by your side.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power
of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy; and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of God almighty, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN: Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

SENDING OUT

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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