



## The Sunday Eucharist in Advent

Welcome to St Andrew's, the Parish Church of Alexandra Park.

*The Eucharist is central to our worship together. Below is an outline of the service which includes the congregation's responses in **bold**. Please participate in as much or as little as you wish. The clergy are always available afterwards to chat or pray with you.*

*Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement. It's a liturgical season that goes back to the first centuries of the Church. In the Christian East the season is called the 'Nativity Fast', and the focus is on the prophets who foretold our Lord's birth. In the West, this forms part of a twofold focus of, on the one hand, entering into the ancient longing for the coming of Israel's Messiah, and on the other, preparing and watching as we try to be alert in anticipation and expectation of his Second Coming. The fundamental prayer of Advent can be articulated in Aramaic phrase 'Maranatha' meaning 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16:22).*

**Processional Hymn** (We stand as the bell is rung. The hymn numbers can be seen on the hymn boards or found on the weekly news sheet in addition to the readings and prayers for the Sunday. The Advent wreath is lit just before the final verse.)

### **The Advent Wreath**

#### **Advent I: The candle for the Patriarchs, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

#### **Blessed by God forever**

*The first candle (purple) is lit*

Let us pray.

**Lord Jesus we give thanks for our Father Abraham who by faith obeyed your call and became the father of many nations. Give us faith to listen to your voice that our hearts may be filled with the hope of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### **Advent 2: The candle for the Prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed by God forever**

*The second candle (purple) is lit*

Let us pray.

**Lord God you spoke through your prophets and promised a kingdom of peace. We welcome you Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace and our hearts long for the establishment of your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Amen.**

### **Advent 3: The candle for John the Baptist**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages. Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed by God forever**

*The third candle (rose) is lit*

Let us pray.

**Lord Jesus, your servant John the Baptist called people to prepare for your coming by caring for one another. Give us willing hearts to reach out to all people in need with your love and compassion. Amen.**

## **Advent 4: The candle for Holy Mary the Mother of Jesus**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all. Blessed be God for ever.

### **Blessed by God forever**

*The fourth candle (purple) is lit*

Let us pray.

**Alleluia, alleluia. Holy Mary Mother of Jesus, blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Alleluia!**

### **The Greeting** *(The celebrant welcomes the people and introduces the Eucharist)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you:  
**And also with you.**

### **Invitation to Confession** *(We prepare to make our confession)*

Sisters and brothers,  
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.

### **Prayers of Penitence** *(Our act of confession)*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## **The Kyrie Eleison (sung)**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

## **The Collect (sung)** *(The prayer of the Church for the day is sung)*

Amen.

## **The Liturgy of the Word** *(We sit for readings from the scriptures)*

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading** *(We stand as the gospel acclamation is sung)*

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

Here the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

## **Sermon** *(Sit)*

## **The Creed** *(We stand to proclaim the faith of the Church)*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession** *(We sit, stand or kneel to pray for the needs of the world,  
for all in authority, for this community, for the Church and for ourselves)*

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

OR

Lord hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end of the prayers:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Peace** *(We stand to exchange a sign of peace with one another)*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine  
on those who dwell in darkness and 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**

## **Prayer at the Preparation of the Table**

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer (sung)**

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.**

The prayer continues '...for ever praising you and singing':

**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.**

The prayer continues '...Great is the mystery of faith':

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

At the end of the prayer all respond: **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and 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.**

## **The Agnus Dei (sung)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. x2**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper:

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*(All who are baptised and ordinarily receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to receive here. Alternatively, you are invited to come forward for a blessing).*

## **Communion Hymn**

### **Prayer after Communion** *(The celebrant prays the set prayer for the day)*

**Amen.**

**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.**

**Notices** *(We sit for the notices some of which are also printed on the weekly news sheet)*

## **The Blessing and Dismissal** (*Stand*)

With love and compassion: **come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy: **come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory: **come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth: **come, Lord Jesus.**

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

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.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

*Refreshments are always served after the service at the back of church.*

*Please do join us if you can.*



**Please do not take this booklet away with you.**

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**Thank you for your generosity.**





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The Parish of Alexandra Park

