



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
ALL AGE FAMILY
COMMUNION

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
3RD DECEMBER 2023

The Sidesman today are: Sarah and
Charles Vernede

The Zoom details for this service
are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel;
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

***Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

Rejoice

O come, thou dayspring, come and
cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to
flight:

Rejoice

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on
high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice

O come, O come, thou Lord of
might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times, didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

Rejoice

Please sit

Greeting and Welcome

Today is the first Sunday of Advent.
Advent is a special time when we get
ready for the coming of Jesus. It is
very exciting when we know that
someone is coming to visit us. We
make sure that we are ready when
they come. Today we are going to
think about what it means to be
welcoming, and how we get ready to
welcome Jesus.

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for your
Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel,
the hope of the peoples, he is the
wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come
upon this wreath. May the wreath and
its light be a sign of Christ's promise
to bring us salvation. May he come
quickly and not delay. We ask this
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer for the Lighting of the first
Advent Candle**

Advent Sunday - The Patriarchs

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today. **Amen.**

An Act of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord
in penitence and faith.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that
fear you, that glory may dwell in our
land:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse
us from our sins, and restore us in his
image to the praise and glory of his
name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace to cast
away the works of darkness and to
put on the armour of light, now in the
time of this mortal life, in which your
Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility; that on the last day, when
he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the
dead, we may rise to the life
immortal; through him who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever. **Amen.**

READING - ISAIAH 64:1-9 - READ BY ANNE WHEELHOUSE

Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down,
that the mountains would tremble
before you!

As when fire sets twigs ablaze and
causes water to boil,
come down to make your name
known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake
before you!

For when you did awesome things
that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains
trembled before you.

Since ancient times no one has
heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides
you,

who acts on behalf of those who
wait for him.

You come to the help of those who
gladly do right, who remember your
ways.

But when we continued to sin
against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?

All of us have become like one who
is unclean,

and all our righteous acts are like
filthy rags;

we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like
the wind our sins sweep us away.

No one calls on your name or strives
to lay hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN:

Hark! a herald voice is calling:

'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;

'Cast away the dreams of darkness,

O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earth-bound soul arise;

Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,

Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heaven;

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,

Wrapping all the earth in fear,

May he then as our defender

Of the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,

To the Father and the Son,

With the co-eternal Spirit,

While unending ages run. Amen.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK, CHAPTER 13 BEGINNING AT THE 33RD VERSE.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man travelling abroad.

He leaves home and places his

servants in charge,

each with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on

the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of

the house is coming,

whether in the evening, or at

midnight,

or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find

you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all:

‘Watch!’”

Reflection

Creed

Father, we adore You.

Lay our lives before You.

How we love You.

Jesus, we adore You.

Lay our lives before You.

How we love You.

Spirit, we adore You.

Lay our lives before You.

How we love You.

PRAYERS LED BY JANE COOPER

PLEASE SIT/KNEEL

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of this Season of Advent we ask you to prepare us for the coming, of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness.

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

Mighty God, we pray for your church today, gathering worldwide in churches, chapels and cathedrals, to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

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

We pray for your blessing on all those who lead, preach and teach and we pray especially for our own clergy here in Diocese as they seek to do your will and guide us through our spiritual and worldly journey through Advent, until the day when we celebrate together the birth of your Son on Christmas Day.

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

Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have

lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future.

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

Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly and according to your will especially at this time of the conflict and war.

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

Father God, we pray for those amongst our families, friends and neighbours who will only see in Advent a hectic and worrying run-up to the excesses of a secular Christmas.

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

Help us as we try to set an example of a true spirit of preparation for that incredibly precious gift of the Christ-child. May they see in our Services our Carols and whether in church or online, the true meaning of Christmas and experience your love for them through the giving of your Son, Jesus Christ

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

Merciful God, we pray for those for whom this day will be long and painful, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression and for all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick,

Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

Loving God we pray for those who have recently died and for those for whom this day will be their last. We pray for those recently departed:
Wendy Gunn.

We pray for those whose years' mind occur at this time: Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, John Heady, Hebert Fautly, Matthew Liggett, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey Fautly, Irene Reed, Nancy Bennett, Charles Newcombe, Fergus Gask, Gerald Larkin, Ignace Van Kan

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

Be near to all who mourn and comfort them with the knowledge that in the coming of your son Jesus the gates of heaven will be opened wide for all who accept him as Lord and Saviour.

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

Advent Lord, as we move into a new liturgical year, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

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

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand to sing

**Shalom, Shalom,
May peace be with you,
Throughout your days;
In all that you do,
May peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

(Repeat)

Hymn:

A collection will be made during the singing of this hymn

Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

When earth was near its evening
hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming
pow'r,
like bridegroom from his chamber,
come
forth from a virgin-mother's womb.

At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heav'n and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,

ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might and glory be
From age to age eternally.

*The bread, wine and bread of
friendship are placed on the altar.*

The bread we offer which
symbolises our work, becomes for
us the Body of Christ. **Amen**

The wine we offer which symbolises
our leisure, becomes for us the
Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

We offer to God all that we are so
we sing:

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have, I offer now
to you.**

**Take and sanctify these gifts
for your honour, Lord.**

**Knowing that I love and serve you
is enough reward.**

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have I offer now
to you.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 him thanks and
praise**

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

We give thanks for all that God has
done for us.

God the Father created the heavens,
the earth and everything in them;
and created us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like
us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us
together as the people of God

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to
worship this God who loves

We sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

Please sit/kneel

We praise you Father that before
Jesus our Saviour suffered and died,
he gave us this holy meal to share
and told us to continue it until he
comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus
took bread. After giving thanks, he

broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing:

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

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We Share in Holy Communion and Bread of Friendship.

EVERYONE is invited to come for a blessing and to share in the Bread of Friendship. If you are a communicant member of another church you are welcome to share with us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, (please indicate if you require a gluten free wafer.) The Vicar delivers the consecrated bread and wine saying: The Body and Blood of Christ.

*The communicant may reply **Amen** and then receive. We reply as an act of faith.*

For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made

clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above `all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Chalice Bearers are: Charles Vernede and Peter Hodges

Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Come, bow before Him now,
with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned,

How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,

He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Post-Communion Prayer

**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

BLESSING

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 ...

Hymn

Lo, He comes with clouds
descending;
once for favour'd sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him
robed in glorious majesty:
those who set at naught and sold
Him,
pierced and nailed Him to the tree,

deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion
still His dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore Thee,
high on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for Thine own:
come, Lord Jesus! come, Lord Jesus!
come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

**And with all our brothers and
sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory.**
Amen.

We listen to the Organ Voluntary:
Rorate Coeli - Pietro Yon

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
– 8th 9th 10th December 2023 –
please help during the festival days

and also by baking. See lists on table
to sign up. Thank you.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – SIGHTSAVERS

INTERNATIONAL ~ Please feel
free to take an envelope, make a
donation and hang it on the tree.
Your envelope will be removed and
replaced by a star so that by
Christmas we hope to see a tree full
of stars.

MINCE PIES are requested for the
village Carol Service on Sunday
December 17th at 6pm please.
Mulled wine and mince pies will be
served after the service. Please sign
the sheet on the table if you are able
to donate a few mince pies.

**NATIVITY PLAY/CRIB
SERVICE** - sign- up list on table if
you wish to take part. Adults and
children welcome to join in. Sun
Dec 24th at 5pm.

**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at
Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00 am.** Please
do join us.

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Rodney
Dreyer 01580 754459

Churchwardens: Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Organist: Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding: Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877