

# Welcome to Christ Church Advent Parish Communion



*We begin worship with all ages together and then the children continue their worship in groups in the hall.*

*We reunite to receive from the Lord's Table as the whole family of God.*

## ***The Gathering***

### **Pre-Worship**

*Words of welcome and introduction, Notices and Banns*

### **The Greeting**

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

### **Opening Responses**

Among us the spirit of God conceives new life

**And we feel the life within us.**

In our history the Christ makes gentle entry

**And we see the light before us.**

Within our dreams the truth of our God is revealed;

**We await the hope of the world.**

### **Hymn/Song**

#### **Confession** *(Sit or kneel)*

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.

Merciful God,

forgive that we fall asleep when you call us to watch and pray.

**We fail to see the signs of your coming.**

Christ our Saviour, forgive that we are not watchful;

we do not choose hope or plant seeds of hopefulness.

**We fail to see the signs of your coming.**

Forgiving Spirit, forgive that in the rush of the Christmas season we

forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel voices;

we forget to stop and look for a star to guide us to Christ.

**We fail to see the signs of God's presence.**

God over all; Christ within us; Spirit around us;

Hear our prayer and send your messenger of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

## **Absolution**

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.**

## **Collect and Lighting of Advent wreath**

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

#### **Reading:** *(sit)*

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

#### **Hymn/Song**

#### **Gospel Reading** *(remain standing)*

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

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

*At the end:*

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

#### **Sermon** *(sit)*

#### **Affirmation of Faith** *(stand)*

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father, the only Son from before time began; human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**Fully God and fully human; human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father, as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh, but by taking humanity into God;

**Truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead, but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## **Intercessions** *(sit or kneel)*

*Using a large candle as a focus we reflect on the themes of the Advent wreath, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in an interactive way.*

*And at the end*

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.**

## ***Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### **The Peace**

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Hymn/Song** *(During which the collection is taken)*

### **Preparation of the Table**

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer** *(sit or kneel)*

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did; in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

*Christ is the bread of life:*

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes, and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Awaiting his coming in glory, 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.**

## **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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

So draw near with faith. Be strengthened by the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a stable to be the living bread, and died on a cross, having poured out his love so we may drink from God's cup of forgiveness. Eat and drink. Take him into your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All people who receive communion in their own church are welcome to receive here.*

*At the altar, please hold your hands out ready to receive. Those not receiving communion are invited to come to the altar for a blessing – please keep your hands by your side so we know you are not receiving communion.*

## **Choir Anthem:**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept*

**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 Dismissal***

## **Blessing**

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Hymn/Song

### Dismissal

Our Lord says 'I am coming soon'.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

*There is prayer ministry offered in the chancel after the service.  
If you would like prayer for yourself or someone else there are people who  
will listen and pray in confidence.  
Refreshments are served at the back of church after the service  
– all are welcome.*

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