

# Advent Sunday

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**HYMN: 30 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.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

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

**Amen.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

*The people are invited to reflect on their sins. We keep a few moments of silence to remember before God our faults and the things we have done that are wrong. God promises us forgiveness, healing and a fresh start when we confess our sins in faith and penitence.*

**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.**

*We sing with the choir:*

Lord, have mercy  
**All: Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy  
**All: Christ have mercy**

Lord, have mercy  
**All: Lord have mercy**

*We receive God's forgiveness in the words of the 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.**

The **PSALM or CANTICLE** is sung by the choir.

**Psalm 25:1-6**

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust;   
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame,   
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord,   
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,   
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,   
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,   
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

### **THE COLLECT**

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

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 21: 25 - 36**

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

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things

taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response:*

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*At the end:*

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

### **THE PEACE**

*The priest introduces the peace.*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**HYMN: 75 Long ago, prophets knew**

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new,  
Bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.

Chorus:        Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
                  Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
                  When he comes, when he comes,  
                  Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid,  
Till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected:

Journey ends: where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry.

Chorus:        Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
                  Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
                  Jesus comes, Jesus comes,  
                  We will make him welcome.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts.*

*We sing the Sanctus:*  
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 priest recalls the Last Supper.*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer continues.*

*At the end we respond:*  
**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 forever.**  
**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.**

*We sing the Agnus Dei:*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

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

Jesus is the lamb of God

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.**

### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*You are invited to use the prayer for Spiritual Communion below asking Jesus to be with you now.*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me,

for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly,

love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

*51 'The Lord will come and not be slow' & 52 'The people that in darkness sat' are sung during the giving of Communion.*

### **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**

**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.**

## **HYMN: 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured 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 dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the 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:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley and John Cennick*

## **THE BLESSING**

*A blessing is given.*

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

*The ministers depart. An organ voluntary is played.*

Spiritual Communion.

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.