

An order for the Holy Eucharist in Advent



the parish of
St George the Martyr
Shirley

What is Advent?¹

'Advent is a time of preparation and reflection, hope and anticipation.'²

Advent is the season when the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (in Latin - adventus) of Christ in human flesh, and also looks ahead to his final coming at the end of time.

Despite sharing the seasonal colour of purple with the season before Easter known as Lent, the characteristic note of Advent is joyful expectation, rather than penitence. The commercial pressure to pre-empt Christmas has made it hard to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and in the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society.

The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday') was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent, hence the pink candle in the Advent wreath.

Advent is a good time to begin or renew the habit of saying a private prayer of preparation before the service begins – perhaps the 'Collect for Purity' printed below:

Private Prayer of Preparation (Collect for Purity)

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.



¹ Adapted from Common Worship: Times and Seasons (London, Church House Publishing, 2006) p33

² Peter Elliott quoted in 'Celebrating Christ's Appearing' (London, SPCK, 2008) p24

The Gathering

We stand at the entry of the choir and clergy during which a hymn may be sung. (Hymn numbers are shown on the hymn boards and in the pew sheet.)

The Advent Candle Ceremony

Each Sunday an additional candle is lit on the Advent Ring using a short ceremony to be found on the pew sheet or a separate folded sheet.

The service resumes from this point.

We meet in the name of God
who is Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

(or)

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



Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites all to confess their sins in these or similar words.

Deacon 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.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

(or)

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**



The Absolution

The president pronounces absolution using these or similar words

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(or)

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 Liturgy of the Word

The Collect

The president reads the appropriate prayer for the week.

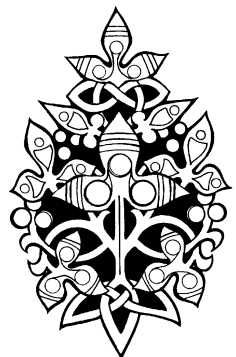
We sit to listen to the readings.

The Readings

At the end of each reading from Holy Scripture

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

A psalm may be read



We stand to hear the Gospel. A gradual hymn may be sung.

Gospel

We turn to face the Gospel party.

Gospeller Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Gospeller The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Gospeller Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading.

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

We sit to listen to the sermon.

We stand to affirm the faith of the church. (This may be omitted on weekdays.)

Affirmation of Faith

Deacon We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

Deacon We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

Deacon 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.**

Deacon We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

We sit or kneel to pray.

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid,
let us pray to the Lord.

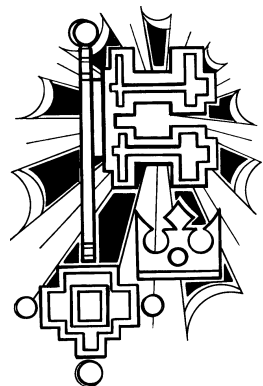
We are invited to respond to each petition in these or other similar words.

Lord in your mercy (or)
Hear our prayer

Lord, hear us
Lord, graciously hear us

At the end of the prayers we say...

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



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We stand as the president introduces the peace.

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.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share a handshake with those around us saying 'Peace be with you'.

An Offertory Hymn may be sung.

Preparation of the Table

The bread and wine for communion are offered with these or similar words.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.
and also with you. 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.

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December

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 for us 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 *singing*:

we turn to the top of page 8

From 17 December until Christmas Eve

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory,

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

we turn to the top of page 8

**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.**

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.

Deacon Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, 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 our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St George, [N] and 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.

We sit or kneel to say the Lord's Prayer.

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

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

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

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

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

(or)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

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

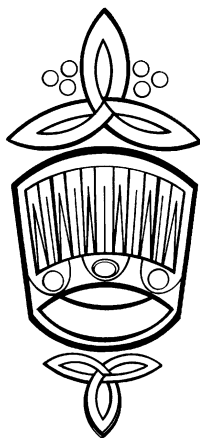
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(or)

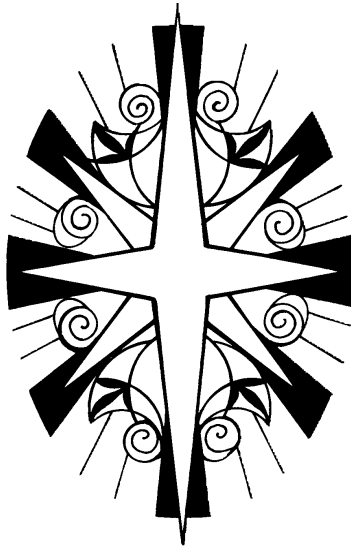
Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**



The prayer of humble access

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

All are welcome at the altar. *If for any reason you feel unable to receive the blessed bread and wine at the time of communion, please do still come forward to receive a sign of God's blessing – simply bow your head and keep your hands lowered.*



Prayer after Communion

The president reads the appropriate prayer for the week.

The Post-Communion Prayer

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

(or)

**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.**

When Junior Church meet, the children are invited to give feedback after which this prayer may be said by all.

**Lord Jesus, we thank you for the children and young people of
this parish family. Bless and guide all those who encourage
them on their journey of faith, today and always. Amen**

The notices and any banns of marriage are read.

The Dismissal

We stand as the president blesses the people using these or similar words.

The 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 of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Deacon As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

A final hymn may be sung as the choir and clergy leave.

Please come and meet each other and enjoy a chat over a cup of fairtrade tea or coffee in the Hall behind the Church after the 10am Sunday service.

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Order One – Contemporary Language - Eucharistic Prayer E - Body Copy - Calibri 11pt

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<i>Toddler Church</i>	<i>JUNIOR CHURCH</i>	<i>YOUTH CHURCH</i>
Age 0 - 3yrs	Age 3yrs to Year 5	Year 5/6 - Year 11
There is a well-resourced and carpeted area at the back of the church where adults with young babies or toddlers are welcome to go during the service if they feel they need a change of scene. This area has a speaker system so you are still able to be involved in the service.	Junior Church meets in the Church Hall just before 10am where they have their own session including stories, prayers, craft activities, music, etc. They come into church during communion for a blessing and sit with the leaders for the remainder of the service. They have an opportunity to share with the congregation what they have been doing.	Youth Church starts in Church at 10.00am and then go to the Choir Vestry during the end of the first hymn. Here they have their own session with teaching, discussion, reflection, prayer, etc. They return to their families in time for communion.
All groups for children and youth are supported by at least 2 approved adults		

Large Print copies of this service are available – if you would like one, please ask.

There is an induction loop system – switch to 'T' position.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available – please ask.

