

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We say the following prayers after the Advent Candles have been lit.

First Sunday of Advent

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 this Christmastide,
be king of our lives today.

Second Sunday of Advent

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide
and show all the world God's love.

Third Sunday of Advent

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day
help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children
who long for your coming.

The Chase Benefice



The Parish Eucharist

in the Advent Season

We hope you will feel very welcome at our Church. This booklet contains all you need (apart from the hymns) to be able to join in the service fully. You will find the text of the service on the right-hand pages. On the left-hand pages we have printed some material in blue that we hope will help you deepen your reflection upon the service.

If you are a communicant member of another church, you are warmly invited to share in Communion with us. If you are not confirmed, may we urge you to consider it, and (if you live in the area) to have a word with the priest about what is involved?

Children are always welcome in our Church. At the back of the Church there are some activity bags, containing quiet toys and colouring books – please help yourself! We want you to enjoy worship so please don't worry if the children make a noise.

It is our practice, before the service begins, and especially after the candles have been lit, to keep the church as quiet and still as possible so that everyone can prepare to worship God 'in spirit and in truth'. Please pray for all involved in leading our worship, and for those sitting near you. You may like to use the 'Prayers before worship' on the following pages.

The Advent season is a time of great expectancy as we prepare for Christmas. May God prepare our hearts and minds for his coming in Christ as we worship together this morning.

A hymn may be sung.

The president gives a blessing and the service ends with

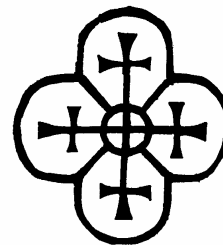
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers leave the Church.

After the service please do stay and have a chat. If you are new, please introduce yourself to the Priest or to the Churchwardens. They will introduce you to other people and they can give you more information about our Church.

We hope that you have enjoyed being with us this morning and will come again.



The Chase Benefice

Please do not take this booklet away.

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*Come then, Lord,
and make yourself known in our street,
that our city may dance with your life,
and its heart beat with the power
of your love.*

Ann Lewin

You are Christians! Then your Lord is one and the same with Jesus on the throne of his glory, with Jesus in his blessed Sacrament, with Jesus received into your hearts in Communion, with Jesus who is mystically with you as you pray, and with Jesus enshrined in the hearts and bodies of his brothers and sisters up and down the world.

Now go out into the highways and hedges, and look for Jesus in the ragged and naked, in the oppressed and sweated, in those who have lost hope, and in those who are struggling to make good. Look for Jesus in them; and when you find him, gird yourselves with his towel of fellowship, and wash his feet in the person of his brethren.

Bishop Frank Weston

*Finished and perfected,
O Christ our God,
so far as in us lies,
Is the mystery of thy redeeming purpose.
We have made the memorial of thy death,
We have seen the symbol of thy resurrection,
We have been filled with thine unending life,
We have tasted thine inexhaustible bounty,
Of which may we all be found worthy.*

Liturgy of St. Basil

Order One

The people and the priest

- ¶ greet each other in the Lord's name
- ¶ confess their sins and are assured of God's forgiveness
- ¶ keep silence and pray a Collect
- ¶ proclaim and respond to the word of God
- ¶ pray for the Church and the world
- ¶ exchange the Peace
- ¶ prepare the Table
- ¶ pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- ¶ break the Bread
- ¶ receive Communion
- ¶ depart with God's blessing.

Entrance

*Pause at the threshold
Of the sacred space,
Bow low.
Prepare for fresh
Encounter
With the Holy One.*

Ann Lewin

*Surely the Lord is in this place
and this is none but the house of God
and the gate of heaven.*

John Donne

Before the Service – Speak to God
During the Service – Let God speak to you
After the Service – Speak to one another

*If you came this way,
Taking any route, starting from anywhere,
At any time or at any season,
It would always be the same:
you would have to put off
Sense and notion. You are not here to verify,
Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity
Or carry report. You are here to kneel
Where prayer has been valid.*

T.S. Eliot, Little Gidding

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, My Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

George Herbert

*As watchmen look for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.
Come with the dawning of the day, and make
yourself known to us in the breaking of bread;
for you are our God for ever and ever.*

From one of the earliest Christian Liturgies

welcome to receive the sacrament.

If you are not confirmed or do not wish to receive the sacrament, please come for a blessing and kneel with your hands behind your back.

These words of distribution may be used

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*Each communicant replies **Amen**. Please wait until the person on your left has received the chalice before leaving the altar.*

After all have received, silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

The president says the Post Communion prayer, then all say

All **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.

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

St Patrick's Breastplate

*Strengthen, O Lord,
the hands which have been held out
to receive thy holy things.
Grant that the ears
which have heard the voice of thy songs
may be closed to the voice of clamour and dispute;
That the eyes which have seen thy great love
may also behold thy blessed hope;
That the tongues which have sung the Sanctus
may also speak the truth;
That the feet which have trodden thy courts
may ever walk in the light;
That the bodies which have tasted thy living Body
may be restored to newness of life.*

Liturgy of Malabar

*At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.
The president may say*

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

All Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

*The president welcomes the people. We sit for the
lighting of the Advent candles. We may say together one
of the prayers on the back cover.*

Prayer of Preparation

*Stand as the children leave if there is a crèche or
Junior Church. This prayer is said*

**All Stir up your power, Lord
and with great might come among us;
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace speedily help
and deliver us,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*The beatitudes are the badges
of a true disciple of Christ.
They are the marks of a child of God.
They make us rich in the sight of God.
They open our minds and hearts
to a new way of seeing and judging.
They give us a whole new set of bearings.
The things the beatitudes stand for
are very beautiful and very precious –
things such as peace, goodness, joy, love,
gentleness, compassion, mercy, integrity ...
A person who lives according to the beatitudes
is already living in the kingdom of heaven.
Eternal life will merely be the full blossoming
of a plant that is green with life.*

Flor McCarthy

have mercy on us.

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says one of these invitations to 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
God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All may say

**All 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.**

*A minister invites the people to confess using
The Beatitudes or a seasonal invitation*

The Beatitudes

Silence is kept between each Beatitude.

Let us hear our Lord's blessing
on those who follow him:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after
righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for
righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Let us confess our many failures
to keep this way of truth and life.

The confession follows without further invitation.

*I no longer want just to hear about you, beloved Lord,
through messengers. I no longer want to hear
doctrines about you, nor to have my emotions stirred
by people speaking of you. I yearn for your presence.
These messengers simply frustrate and grieve me,
because they remind me of how distant I am from you.
They re-open wounds in my heart, and they seem to
delay your coming to me. From this day onwards
please send me no more messengers, no more
doctrines, because they cannot satisfy my
overwhelming desire for you. I want to give myself
completely to you. And I want you to give yourself
completely to me. The love which you show in
glimpses, reveal to me fully. The love which you
convey through messengers speak it to me directly. I
sometimes think you are mocking me by hiding
yourself from me. Come to me with the priceless jewel
of your love.*

*St. John of the Cross
Reveal Yourself*

People ought not to consider so much what they are to do as what they are; let them but be good and their ways and deeds will shine brightly. If you are just, your actions will be just too. Do not think that saintliness comes from occupation; it depends rather on what one is. The kind of work we do does not make us holy but we make it holy. However 'sacred' a calling may be, as it is a calling, it has no power to sanctify but rather as we are and have the divine being within, we bless each task we do, be it eating or sleeping, or watching or any other. Whatever they do, who have not much of (God's) nature, they work in vain.

Meister Eckhart

*The Advent mystery
is the beginning of the end
of all in us that is not yet Christ.*

Thomas Merton
The Advent Mystery

We sit or kneel for the prayers.

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

**All 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.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.

**All 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

Sometimes,
I long to call
words of praise
to me,
so that they may settle
like doves on my palm.
I long to coax them
down from the trees
into my waiting hand.
Sometimes they come,
swift and powerful
like hawks to the wrist of the falconer,
words of challenge,
fierce words of regret.

One time you came,
the word.
Not at my call,
you came
to occupy
a cradle,
a grave,
my heart,
a universe.
You came to call me
to unleash
words of comfort
words of hope.

Sometimes I hold out
my empty hands
and wait.

Kate McIlhagga
The Word Awaited

Either

All Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness
of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me,
for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Or, with suitable penitential sentences, the Kyrie eleison
may be used*

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president declares God's forgiveness.

The Collect

*We keep a moment of silence to collect our thoughts and
concerns before the president says the Collect, which
reflects a theme of the Advent season. All respond*

All Amen.

*The brood born here to live in heaven has life
from water and the fructifying Spirit.
Sinner, seek your cleansing in this stream
that takes the old and gives a new person back.
No barrier can divide where life unites:
one faith, one fount, one Spirit makes one people.
A virgin still, the church gives birth to children
conceived of God, delivered in water. Washed in this
bath the stains will float away
that mark the guilt of Adam and your own.
The stream that flows below
sprang from the wounded Christ
to wash the whole world clean and give it life.
Children of the water, think no more of earth;
heaven will give you joy; in heaven hope.
Think not your sins too many or too great:
birth in this stream is birth to holiness.*

*St. John Lateran (5th Century)
From a Baptismal Inscription*

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit –
fruit that will last*

John 15:16

and all respond

All 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 president recalls the Last Supper, and one of these
acclamations may be used*

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

[Praise to you, Lord Jesus:]
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Or the following responses may be made

This is his / our story

All This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology,
to which all respond boldly, either*

All Blessing and honour and glory and
power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

or

All Amen.

He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with my mind's eye and I thought, 'What can this be?' And answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled that it could last, for I thought it might have crumbled to nothing. It was so small. And the answer came into my mind, 'It lasts and ever shall because God loves it.' And all things have their being through the love of God.

Julian of Norwich

*As we share your life
in this bread and this cup,
may we, with all the faithful in this place,
be set aflame with your love,
and be filled with your power,
that others may see
and be drawn to your service
and live to your glory and praise.*

Ann Lewin

*Come freshly to us now, Lord God,
and fill us with your spirit;
that we may be surprised into
new discoveries of the simplicity
and generosity of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord*

Ann Lewin

Readings

We sit for the readings from Scripture. At the end the reader may say

For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A hymn or a Psalm is sung. We turn to face the minister for the Gospel of the Day.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading with these or other suitable words

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We sit for the Sermon, after which there is a brief silence. On Sundays and Principal Holy Days we then stand to affirm our faith.

A hymn is sung, during which the altar is prepared and a collection may be taken. The gifts of bread and wine are brought from the people and placed upon the altar.

The following prayers may be used.

God of life, saviour of the poor,
receive with this money
gratitude for your goodness,
penitence for our pride
and dedication to your service
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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.

All Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

*Sick wards. The sailed beds
becalmed. The nurses tack
hither and fro. The Chloroform
breeze rises and falls.
Hospitals are their own
weather. The temperatures
have no relation
to the world outside. The surgeons,
those cunning masters
of navigation, follow
their scalpels' compass through
hurricanes of pain to a calm
harbour. Somewhere far down
in the patient's darkness,
where faith died, like a graft
or a transplant, prayer
gets to work, repairing
the soul's tissue, leading
the astonished self between
two pillars, where life's angels
stand wielding their bright swords of flame.*

*R.S. Thomas
Healing*

I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by this renewal of labour. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the earth's fruits... . Over every living thing which is to spring up, to grow, to flower, to ripen during this day, to say again the words: This is my Body. And over every death-force which waits in readiness to corrode, to wither, to cut down, speak again your commanding words which express the supreme mystery of faith: This is my Blood.

Teilhard De Chardin

*May this people,
free from stain,
be strengthened in your arms,
and may you bear to the stars
a pure pledge to God.*

'What, it will be questioned, when the sun rises, do you not see a round disc of fire somewhat like a guinea?' 'O no, no, I see an innumerable company of the heavenly host crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!"

William Blake

Let us declare our faith
in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All 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

We sit or kneel for the prayers. These responses may be used

Maranatha.

All Come, Lord Jesus.

or

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

To intercede means literally not to make petitions or indeed to utter words at all but to meet, to encounter, to be with someone on behalf of or in relation to others. Jesus is with the Father; with him in the intimate response of perfect humanity; with him in the power of Calvary and Easter; with him as one who bears us all upon his heart, our Son of Man, our friend, our priest, with him as our own. That is the continuing intercession of Jesus the high priest.

Michael Ramsey

For this is our Lord's will – that our prayer and our trust be alike, large.

Julian of Norwich

*Look graciously upon us, O Holy Spirit;
and give us for our hallowing,
thoughts that pass into prayer,
prayers that pass into love,
and love that passes into life with thee for ever.*

Anon

Let us pray to the Lord
All Lord, have mercy.
or
In faith we pray
All we pray to you our God

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament _____

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange the Peace with those around us by shaking hands.