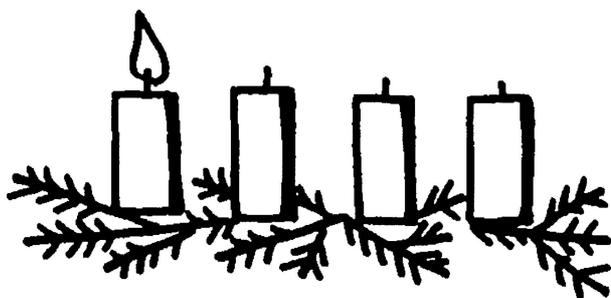




28th November 2021

Advent Sunday

8.30 service



We welcome you to St Matthew's Church and pray you are blessed as we worship the Lord together, on this first day of the Church's year.

If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of our Welcome Cards.

Thank you.

*Please join in the words in **bold print**.*

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

*Our Celebrant and Preacher is
Revd Simon Foster.*

¶ The Gathering

Lighting the first Advent candle

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds from every
nation and race, tribe and language.
**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power
and might be to our God for ever
and ever. Amen.**

We remain standing to pray together

**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.**

Please be seated

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

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's
return, let us confess our sins.

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, 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.

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 Collect

A period of silent prayer

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness, that we may be ready
to meet you in our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word
of God as it comes to us in the reading
of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

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

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

Let us stand to greet the
Gospel of Christ.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21.25-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁵'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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, ³⁵and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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.

Please be seated

The Sermon

Let us stand to affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

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

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

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.**

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

cf Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with
confidence before our Maker
and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom
with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the
nations his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the
Scriptures and recognize him in the
breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the
brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may
dawn on all who live in darkness and
the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights
for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for
whom we pray to the mercy and
protection of our heavenly Father:

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

Please stand

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.

cf Luke 1.78,79

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

Let us offer one another a sign
of God's peace.

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

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.**

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 saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source
of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy
Spirit, and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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.

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.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Matthew and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory

be yours, almighty 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

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

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your 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 Jesus died for you, and lives in you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, 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 nature 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.

Communicant members of any Christian Church are invited to receive Holy Communion. Children and those who are not confirmed are welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing please bow your head.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this
sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the
heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Send us out in the power of your
Spirit to live and work to your
praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices

¶ Dismissal

The Blessing

Jesus, lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future. Amen.

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 God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you and all those whom you love and all those for whom you pray this Advent Sunday and for evermore.

Amen.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Amen.

Please take this service sheet with you.



In those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is
the name by which he will be called:
'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 33.16

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