

**St. Peter's Church,
Formby**



**The Eucharist
in
Advent**

Advent

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ in his incarnation at Christmas, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.

The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, rather than penitence, even though purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

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; Christingle services take place in St Peter's on Christmas Eve.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and therefore the custom continues of lighting the rose coloured candle on this Sunday.

An Advent Prayer

Make clear to us, O Lord our God,
the meaning of Christ's coming
to Bethlehem long ago,
in our lives now, and at the last great day:
that we may receive his forgiveness,
know the power of his living presence,
and rejoice in the hope of his kingdom:
for his name's sake.

Amen

(From Parish Prayers by Frank Colquhoun)

The Gathering

Opening Hymn

One of the Advent candles shall be lit.



The president says

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

All **Amen.**

The president greets the people

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

All **and also with you.**

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The president says

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.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

Remain standing and face the reader

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

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sermon

Creed

The president says

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The president says

In joyful expectation of his coming, we pray to Jesus.

These responses will be used unless otherwise announced

Lord, in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

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 *All stand*

The president says

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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

A minister says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn



Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The president says

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.

All **Amen.**

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.**



We kneel or sit for the Prayer of Thanksgiving

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ
by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist,
who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.
God of glory, for whose coming we wait,
make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near.
Strengthen our hearts in all holiness,
that we may be heralds of your kingdom.
By your Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup
that they may be for us the body and blood
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who, on the night he gave up himself for us all
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

God of love, as we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with St. Peter and all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**



The 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says

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 and lives for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Every Christian is welcome to receive Holy Communion in St. Peter's.
If you prefer to receive a blessing please keep your hands at your side.*

Hymn during Communion

Prayer after Communion

The following Post Communion Prayer is said

**God our guide,
you have fed us with bread from heaven
as you fed your people Israel.
May we who have been spiritually nourished
be ready to follow you all our days;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Closing Hymn

The president says

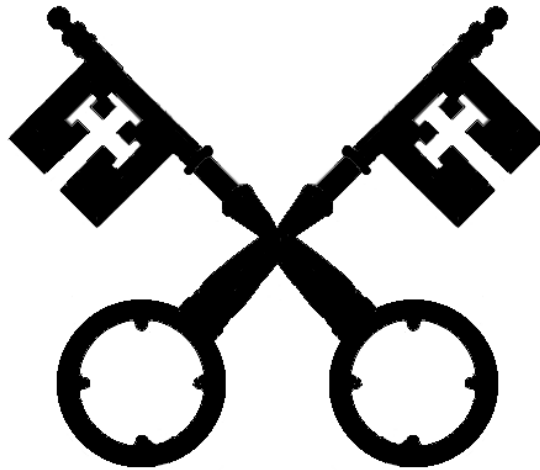
The Lord be with you
All **And also with you.**

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 with you, and all whom you love and care for,
this day and always. Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

+++++



2018

+++++

Copyright acknowledgement: Common Worship, Times & Seasons
©The Archbishops' Council 2000;
Joining the Angels' Song © Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher 2016