



Service of Holy Communion



Advent Season

Sunday 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday

Including the welcoming of Rachel & Charles as Anna friends

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon: Gerda

Preacher: Sarah

Presiding: Canon Simon

No Gloria as in Lent

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Please remain seated

In this season of Advent,
we prepare our hearts
for the coming of Emmanuel God with us

In our watching and in our waiting

Come Christ Jesus

In our hopes and in our fears

Come Christ Jesus

Into our hearts, our homes, and into the world

Come Christ Jesus

Please remain seated for our introit

Choir Introit: Advent Wreath Prayer No.1 (Malcolm Archer)

Please stand

HYMN 45 - O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

JOHN MASON NEALE (1818 – 1866)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Responses can also be found on the pew sheet

Advent 1 Responses- Lighting of the candle

Come Christ Jesus

Awaken our hope

The candle is lit

Come, Christ Jesus.

Awaken our hope. Let it rise and shine and live. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Let us make our confession to the coming Lord

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

CONFESSION

Please sit or kneel for a moment of quiet & reflection

O promised Christ, our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises. Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. We and the world wait for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *us*, pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins, confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness, and keep *us* in life eternal.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Read by Terri

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

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Instead of a gradual hymn the choir will sing

'A Tender Shoot' by Goldschmidt

GOSPEL READING Luke 21: 25-36

(Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St 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.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand to affirm our Faith using the words of the **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Commissioning of Sarah & Charles as Anna Friends

As part of our intercessions today we welcome Rachel and Charles as Anna Friends to support the work that Pam and Sarah do as Anna Chaplains.

Words of Commissioning

St Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome says, 'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.' (Romans 12: 4-8)

People of God, Christ invites each of us to faithful discipleship and service. We are all called to different ministries as we seek to live God's love. As we commission Rachel and Charles today, will you, with them, as we start the new Church year, and as baptised disciples of Christ, renew your commitment to the loving service of God, of one another and of all people?

With the help of God, we will.

Rachel and Charles have been called to work as Anna friends. Will you, as the people of God here in this place, support and pray for them in their ministry?

With the help of God, we will

Rachel & Charles, Do you believe that God is calling you to be an Anna Friend?

I do

Rachel & Charles , will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, seek to perform it prayerfully and in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek to develop the faith, gifts and skills God has given you as you share in Christ's mission and ministry?

With the help of God, I will

Heavenly Father, send down your Holy Spirit on your servants Rachel & Charles,

whom you have called to this ministry. Help them to listen patiently, respond wisely and pray faithfully. Give them courage to speak up for those whose voice may not otherwise be heard.

May their hands be ready to do your work.

May their eyes be open to recognise those in need.

May their ears hear soft-spoken words of pain and sorrow.

May their voice speak of healing and peace.

May their feet walk the extra mile with those who falter, and may they always be aware of your presence guiding them and your loving protection around them in all that they do.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Pam

Please sit or kneel

These responses may be used

Christ within us and Christ around us

Bring Light to our world

at the end

Light of the world

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

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

OFFERTORY HYMN 30 - Come, thou long expected Jesus.

(During the offertory hymn the bread & wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

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.

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 thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

CHARLES WESLEY (1707 – 1788)

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.

Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit or kneel - The Choir may remain standing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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 *singing*:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, 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 all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

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.**

The Agnus Dei is sung:

***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.***

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,
but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung during communion (please remain seated)

Anthem People look East (Malcolm Archer)

HYMN: 249 - Holy Spirit, living breath of God.

*Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your word to come alive in me,
give me faith for what I cannot
see;
give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.*

*Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin
in each thought and deed and attitude:
kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.*

*Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.*

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet

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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of new beginnings,
you have fed us at your table
with the bread of renewed hope,
now kindle within us the fire of your love
to be ready to greet Emmanuel,
God with us. 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.*

Emmanuel God with us,
the Prophets spoke of your coming,
as a child born to Mary.
In the sadness and joy of your children,
in the work and fellowship of our homes,
Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, the Prophets spoke of your
coming to bring justice,
compassion and freedom
Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, be born within us,
that we may live in your world with
love and gentleness
Your Kingdom come

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon *us*,
scatter the darkness from before *our* path,
and make *us* ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *us* and remain with *us* always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Before you go

We're so glad that you decided to join us today.
If you are new to the church and would like us to keep in touch,
or to arrange a time when we can visit you,
please leave your details with us.

You are very welcome to join us for refreshments in the centre
following the service.

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face
to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace.**