

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27th November 2022 — Eucharist 9.30am

Holy Eucharist, Second Order, APBA p. 119ff.

The season of Advent is not to be confused with Lent. This short period is not primarily a time of penitence but rather a time to prepare joyfully for Christ's return and his reign. The Lord's return does indeed have a relationship to penitence, but primarily as it leads to repentance, which is an action rather than a feeling—an action of turning around and being turned around by the work of God in us. By reflecting on our lives in the light of God's Word, we recognize the direction in which our present values and habits are leading us. Then we see that those values and ways of living must be changed. We further recognize that only the action of God can make that change in us. In the words of the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent, it is God who enables us "to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light".

In Advent the liturgy deals with contrasts: light and dark; joy and sorrow; beginning and end; and, especially, chronological time and God's time.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.
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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome & Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

and also with you.

Blessed are those who will come from east and west, from north and south,

to feast in the kingdom of God.

The Advent Wreath

*Today is the first Sunday of Advent -
the time when we prepare once again for the coming of Jesus.*

*We light a candle each week to remind us that
Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.*

C G C Dm G

'Christ - mas is com - ing' the church is glad to sing and

Am G7 C F C / Fine

let the Ad - vent can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring.

Am Em F C

1 The first is for God's pro - mise to put the wrong things right, and

Dm C F Dm G7 / D.C.

bring to earth's dark - ness the hope of love and light.

First Candle is lit

Let us pray.

People of God: awake!
 The day is coming soon
 when you shall see God face to face.
 Remember the ways and the works of God.
 God calls you out of darkness
 to walk in the light of his coming.
 You are God's children.



Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Confession & Absolution

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love
 let us look within, search our hearts
 and seek God's healing grace.

**God of the loving heart,
we confess before You those places in our hearts
where we have refused you entrance:
people we have refused to love;
habits we never got round to changing;
good things we have left undone;
and ways in which we hurt You, ourselves and others.**

**Come to us in the light of Your Christ.
Shine on those places we have hidden from You.
Show us new ways to live.
Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts,
that Christ may find a home in us.
Be among us now and forever. Amen.**

May God who loves you,
have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn TIS 271 (AHB 198). tune St Thomas

1. The advent of our God with eager prayers we greet,
and singing hasten on his road his coming reign to meet.
2. The everlasting Son was born to make us free;
and he a servant's form put on to gain our liberty.
3. Let Zion now arise to greet her infant king,
and gladly take with thankful heart
the peace he comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again,
his scattered people to unite, with them in heaven to reign.
5. Then evil flee away before the rising dawn!
Let our old nature day by day God's image still put on.
6. Praise to the incarnate Son who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one to all eternity.

Arrangement © Australian Hymn Book Co
Charles Coffin 1676–1749 tr. John Chandler 1806–76 and others
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The Collect is said or sung

Faithful God,
whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:
renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah [2. 1-5]

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

1. I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
2. And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
3. Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
4. There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
5. There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.
7. Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.
8. For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.
9. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [13. 9-14]

The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [24. 36-44]

GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Sermon

followed by a time of silence for reflection

Affirmation of Faith (APBA p. 37)

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A circle prayer

*Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond,
and the circles of ripples that move out from the centre.*

Circle us O Lord, and those for whom we pray:

We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends—for their health, needs, joys and fears.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week—for their love and concern, for their wellbeing.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less—for a blessing this Advent-time

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people—for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation

Hear the prayers of our hearts

May You, the Blessed Trinity

stand in the circle with us today and always. Amen.

Please stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn TiS 275. tune, Crüger

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to let the captive free,
and take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with help and mercy to those who suffer wrong,
to raise the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever, that name to us is love.

James Montgomery 1771–1854 alt.
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As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glorify to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glorify to you, O God, for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks,
all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with angels and archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**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.**

On the night before he died for us,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his friends, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.” ✠

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the 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.**

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. ✠

Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

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

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The Priest breaks the Bread

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Happy are those who share the banquet.

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.**

The priest gives the Invitation.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

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

AFTER COMMUNION

Father, we give You thanks for the bread of life.
Open our hearts in welcome
to prepare for the coming of our Saviour,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

**As Christmas trees are lighted,
as people rush to shop and send their cards,
as Christmas songs are heard everywhere,
keep us close to You,
that the One whose coming we celebrate,
Jesus Christ,
may be honoured in all we do. Amen.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn A&M 27. tune, Light Up The Fire

1. Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.*

*Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

2. Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

3. Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Sue McClellan (b 1951)
John Paculabo (1946-2013)
and Keith Ryecroft (b 1949)

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

