

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light before me
And it drives away my fear
In the silence there's a voice that calls me
And it tells me you are near

In the chaos there's a hand that holds me
And will never let me go
Yes I know that you are always for me
For your word has told me so

I will follow you, I will walk by faith
You have brought me near by your unrelenting grace
I will set my mind on the things above
You have won my heart with your everlasting love

I was lost but then you came and found me
And in love you brought me home
I was dead in sin but then you raised me
I am saved by grace alone

For no height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love
No height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love

Confession

In this season of busyness, and stress, God of Light, we confess how easy it is to slip off your paths and forget to prepare for your coming.

Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;

Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

God of faithfulness and truth, you sent your servant John the Baptist to preach in the desert and summon the people to repentance. Make us and all things new, that in the wilderness of our world and in our lives, we also may prepare a way for Jesus. **Amen.**

Bible Readings

Isaiah 11.1-10 (*Bible page 575*)

Matthew 3.1-12 (*Bible page 808*)

Sermon (*Chris*)

Worship in Song

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Behold he comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice in the year of jubilee
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the labourers in your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord

A Creed for Advent

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.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Banns of Marriage

The 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.

Worship in Song

Come and hear the wondrous love
The mighty God who reigns above
Has entered in to dwell with us - hallelujah

On the earth our Saviour lived
The Son of Man the servant King
By his death he bore our sin - hallelujah

The fight is over the battle done
The victory of life is won
The song of triumph has begun - hallelujah

The powers of hell had seemed to win
But Christ has conquered death and sin
Let's raise our voices for our King - hallelujah

For very soon he will return
And place all things beneath his throne
And take us to our heavenly home - hallelujah

So now by faith we persevere
And in his strength we will not fear
For as we meet our God is here - hallelujah

Offertory Prayer

Everything in heaven and earth comes from you, Lord. We give you only what is yours. May you be praised forever and ever. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels 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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him
we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once
for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the
bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his
death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for
that day when your kingdom comes and justice
and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look
with favour on your people, gather us in your
loving arms and bring us with all the saints to
feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ,
and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, 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

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

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

We receive communion

Worship in Song - during communion

In the bleak mid-winter all creation groans
For a world in darkness frozen like a stone
Light is breaking - in a stable for a throne

And he shall reign forevermore forevermore
And he shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And he shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man I would travel far
If I were a shepherd I would do my part
But poor as I am - I will give to him my heart

Bridge

Here within a manger lies
The one who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Saviour of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

Worship in Song - during communion

There's a frost on the ground
But a fire in my soul
Today everything can change
There's a flame in my heart
That'll never grow cold
Today is the Saviour's Day

Though the path may be covered
In virgin white snow
Your starlight will guide the way
And the angels are singing
We are not alone
Today is the Saviour's Day

Go tell it on the mountain hope is alive
Go shout it in the valley love has arrived
Gloria glory in the highest
Oh let the church choir sing out
In Christmas praise
Let the bells ring out on the Saviour's day

If you feel like a stranger
There's room at the inn
Let no one be turned away
Let the by-gones be by-gones
And healing begin
Today is the Saviour's Day
Today is the Saviour's Day

Bridge

Let them sing it in the bars of Thornton Cleveleys
Sing it round the fires by Morecambe Bay
From North to the South across every divide
Together we celebrate
'Cause today is the Saviour's Day
The Saviour's Day

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the valley with you by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only you can save

Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave his Son to free us
Holds me in his love

Blessing

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the rough places in your life be made smooth; may the dark valleys of your hearts be filled; may the rugged mountains levelled; and the way of the Lord be made ready in you; and may he come to you and shine forth from you;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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