

# A Liturgy of the Eucharist for the Season of Advent



All Saints Church, Birkenhead



## AN ADVENT REFLECTION

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

*The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of  
Divine judgement:*

*The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent.*

*The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour.*

*In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, in the southern hemisphere it is in reverse, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are seen through a different lens 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 GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in the name of God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Amen

The Lord be with you.  
The Lord Bless you.

*The Sentence of the day is read*

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

*We say / sing:*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence*

Let us confess our sins.  
Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.  
Amen.

Through the cross of Christ,  
✠ God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.  
**Amen.**

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts  
The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

*Silence is kept*

*We turn to our service sheet to pray **The Collect***

## THE READINGS

*After each reading the response is*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
Thanks be to God

*A Hymn may be sung*

*We stand for the Gospel reading*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. cf Isaiah 40.3-5

**Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to...

**✠ Praise and Glory to God**

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word**

## **THE SERMON**

*Following The Sermon we keep silence*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*All standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The presiding priest says:*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

## THE PEACE

*We stand together*

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 Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*We sing a **Hymn** as the bread & wine and the gifts of the people are  
brought to the altar*

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here  
God's 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 offer 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:

**H**oly, 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.

*Please sit or kneel*

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;  
on the night before he died  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks, he broke it,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you, for 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, to remember me

**G**lory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await,  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his  
coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this  
bread of life and this cup of salvation.  
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we  
offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the  
body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed  
for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

✠ **B**lessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever. Amen.

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so we  
pray / sing:

**O**ur 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 forever. Amen

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki,  
ka inoi tatou

E to matou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tou Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tau e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.  
Homai ki a matou aiane  
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.  
Murua o matou hara,  
Me matou hoki e muru nei  
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.  
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:  
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te kororia,  
Ake ake ake. Amine.

*Silence is kept*

*The presiding priest breaks the bread*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.

*We say/sing together:*

**L**amb 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 your peace

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
**Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb**

*The presiding priest and the people receive communion*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the  
gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we  
who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give  
light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name.

*A Final Hymn may be sung*

*A ✠ Blessing is given...*

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.  
**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

*We are sent out with these words*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*You are warmly invited to share Morning Tea in the Hall following the 9.30am  
service*