



All-Age Communion

Advent Sunday

Lighting the way to Christmas



A minister welcomes us informally and we celebrate birthdays.

Happy birthday to you,
happy birthday to you,
happy birthday dear everyone,
happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday to you,
to Jesus be true,
may God's gracious blessings
be showered on you.



A minister says:

At this Advent Season we prepare to celebrate the coming afresh of the Christ-child into a world of our humanity. Advent is a time of watching and waiting for the coming of our Lord. Advent is also a time of waiting in contemplation for the presence of Christ within us, for the Light to enter the world of human darkness. So come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Silence is kept. We stand for the first hymn.

Processional Hymn

Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

*Make way (make way),
make way (make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way (make way) ,
make way (make way) ,
and let his kingdom in!*

We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall.

Make way (make way) ...

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lord direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.

**Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Gracious God,

we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart.

We have not cared for others as ourselves.

In your great mercy,

forgive our sins and help us

to lead a new life in your service.

Amen.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

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. **Amen**

Hearing God's Word

In our watching and our waiting.

Come Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and in our fears.

Come Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world.

Come Lord Jesus.

Come lord Jesus, bless us and surprise us
as we prepare to welcome you into our
hearts and lives this Christmas.

Amen

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Reading Luke 21. 27-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Responding to God's Word

The Talk

Statement of Faith

We stand to affirm our faith.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

Amen



Prayers of Intercession *All stand*

Voice 1: We face east (*congregation faces the front*) and we thank you Lord God for your promise that a new dawn, the dawn of your Kingdom, is rising. Help us to watch for its coming with hope and trust and forgive us when we fail to see its signs around us.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord:
keep watch, take heart!**

Voice 2: We turn to face south (*congregation turns to face the right-hand wall*) and we pray for our children and young people as we journey together to the heart of Christmas. Speak to us as we wait on you this Advent.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord:
keep watch, take heart!**

Voice 1: We turn to face west (*congregation turns to face the back wall*) and we pray for all those who are in any kind of need... We pray for them, and for ourselves, that as we prepare for Christmas, the message of Christ's peace will bring healing and wholeness.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

Voice 2: We turn to face north (*congregation turns to face the left-hand wall*) and we pray for Christians around the world today as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. We ask you to fill us with your Spirit and unite us in our shared hope of a just and peaceful future.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

Voice 1: We turn to face one another (*congregation turns to face the aisle*) and we give thanks that we share the light of Christ with one another. Increase in us the gift of faith that we may grow in fellowship and love.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

Voice 2: And now we turn to face outwards (*congregation turns to face their outside wall*) and we ask you, Lord God, to bless us, and use us to share your light with others.

(All sing) **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

Prayer as we light the first candle of Advent

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our God too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.

**Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.**

The Peace

We stand to share the peace of God.

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Peace is exchanged with those around us.

Offertory Hymn

Long ago prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new,
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
God will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Be present, be present
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest,
make yourself known
in the breaking of bread. **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.

VOICE 1: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

VOICE 2: Listen, and we will hear.

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 is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty:
who was, and is, and is to come;
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Please sit or kneel.

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

VOICE 1: Why do we share this bread and wine?

VOICE 2: Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

Bells are rung.

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

Bells are rung.

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

VOICE 1: How do we follow Jesus Christ?

VOICE 2: Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered
in your loving arms.

And now with St George, St John, St Michael and all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith
and receive this sacrament of love,
and let it rekindle in your heart
the blessing of peace.

The presiding priest and people receive communion with these words
The body of Christ. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*All are warmly invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine
or a prayer of blessing.*

Communion Hymn

I cannot tell
how he whom angels worship
should stoop to love
the peoples of the earth,
or why as shepherd
he should seek the wand'rer
with his mysterious promise
of new birth.

But this I know,
that he was born of Mary,
when Bethl'em's manger
was his only home,
and that he lived at
Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell
how silently he suffered,
as with his peace
he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart
upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain
to three and thirty years.

But this I know,
he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin,
and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden
from the heavy laden,
for yet the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell
how he will win the nations,
how he will claim
his earthly heritage,
how satisfy
the needs and aspirations
of east and west,
of sinner and of sage.
But this I know
all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap
the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day
his sun shall shine in splendour
when he the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell
how all the lands shall worship,
When, at his bidding,
every storm is stilled,
or who can say
how great the jubilation
when every heart
with perfect love is filled.
But this I know,
the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad
human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n,
and heav'n to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is King!'

Prayer after Communion

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. Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work for your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, oh ohhh!
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, oh ohhh!
We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God.
We are living in the love of God.
We are living in the love of God.
We are living in the love of God.
We are living, living,
We are living, oh ohhh,
We are living in the love of God.
We are living, living,
We are living, oh ohhh,
We are living in the love of God.

We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving in the power of God.

The Blessing

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 among you and remain with you always.

Amen

The Dismissal

God shines in our hearts

Praise to Christ our light.

Christ is the light of the world.

Praise to Christ our light.

Go in the power of the Spirit to bring light to others.

Praise to Christ our light.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

South Newbury Benefice - St George, St John, St Michael 2024

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