

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

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Advent Candle Prayers

First Sunday of Advent: Hope for all God's people

We light this candle for all God's people
struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world

God, as we wait for your promise

Give light, give hope

Second Sunday of Advent: The prophets

We light this candle for all God's prophets
confronting injustice and restoring the dream
of a world of freedom and peace

God, as we wait for your promise

Give light, give hope

Third Sunday of Advent: John the Baptist

We light this candle for all God's messengers
preparing the way for change
signs pointing to a new world to come

God, as we wait for your promise

Give light, give hope

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mary

We light this candle for all God-bearers
saying 'Yes' to God's challenge
accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future

God, as we wait for your promise

Give light, give hope

❖ THE GATHERING

Welcome

Words of welcome are given by a Churchwarden of St Mary's

Opening Hymn

The Greeting

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Informal words of welcome may be said

Lighting of the Advent Candles

*The response for lighting the Advent Candle(s) is on
page 12 of this booklet.*

*After this prayer, the children collect their cross from
the altar before going out to their own activities.*

Prayers of Penitence

We sit or kneel; Silence is kept

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

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

The Kyries (sung)

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

Absolution

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Collect

*The president introduces the Collect or Prayer for the Day
(found on the readings sheet) with the words 'Let us pray'.*

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.**

Closing Hymn

Sending Out

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

At the distribution the minister says to each communicant:

The body of Christ. or The blood of Christ.

*The communicant replies each time **Amen**, and then receives. All Christians who normally receive Communion in their own churches, are most welcome to do so here. If you do not wish to receive Communion, please come forward to the altar rail for a blessing.*

During Communion

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir followed by a hymn in which all are invited to join.

Prayers after Communion

*The President prays the prayer on the Readings Sheet
We pray together*

**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
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

❖ THE DISMISSAL

Notices

The children are welcomed back and replace their cross on the altar. Banns may be read at this point and Notices relating to our life together as a church are shared.

❖ The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

We sit to listen to a reading from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

We remain seated for the singing of the Psalm (found on the Readings Sheet). Please join in or reflect quietly on the words.

The Epistle

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word of the Lord lasts forever.

What is the Word that is living?

It is brought to us through his Son Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the sermon a short period of silent reflection is kept, before we stand to declare our faith.

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.
With the Father and the Son**

The Lord's Prayer (we sit or kneel)

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 forever.
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.**

Agnus Dei (sung)

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The President invites the people to receive Communion:

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice
of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit
let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Mary, the mother of our Lord,
and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

**he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy *or* May your kingdom come
Hear our prayer. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

And at the end

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

❖ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The Peace

We stand and the President introduces the Peace

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.

We exchange the peace with those around us.

Offertory Hymn

During which a collection is taken. If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out and use one of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes for your offering

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

Blessed be God for ever

Eucharistic Prayer F

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.
You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.
Again and again you drew us into
your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law
and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and singing:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.
Amen. Lord, we believe