

The 1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday 29 November 2020

Welcome

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

We meet in the name of God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Saying sorry

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.
Let us return to God and confess our sins.

cf 1 Peter 2:24

Father you come to meet us when we return to you;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins;
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Receiving Forgiveness

May Christ who came into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and his peace,
now and forever.

Amen

Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent

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.**

Song – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
 once for mortal sinners slain;
 thousand, thousand saints attending
 swell the triumph of his train.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Christ appears on earth to reign.

- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
 robed in dreadful majesty;
 we who set at naught and sold him
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
 shall the true Messiah see.

- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion
 still his dazzling body bears,
 cause of endless exultation
 to his ransomed worshippers:
 with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
 gaze we on those glorious scars!

- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
 high on thine eternal throne;
 Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
 Claim the kingdom for thine own.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Readings

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ ‘But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and

glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and

puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see

these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor

the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the

time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and

puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to

be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the

master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or

at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I

say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has

been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him,

in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has

been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift

as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you

to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Talk – Sid Mitchell (Licensed Lay Minister in training)

Song – Hark a Herald Voice is Calling

- 1 Hark a herald voice is calling:
‘Christ is nigh!’ it seems to say;
‘Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!’
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav’n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiv’n.
- 4 So when next he comes with glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then, as our defender,
on the clouds of heav’n appear.
- 5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Affirming our Faith – The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Prayers

The prayers conclude with:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
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.

Song – How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

*Chorus Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art.*

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art.

Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen

Ending

We are called and loved by God the Father
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.
May mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance,
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.