

The Parish Church of St Giles
with St Mary's, Pontefract



Advent Sunday
November 29th 2020

10.15 a.m.

Live Streamed on Facebook

The Meaning of "Advent"

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. In Advent we celebrate a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbour as yourself."

The Gathering

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

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath

Invitation to 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.

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.



Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,

open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



The First Candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Collect for Advent Sunday

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence -

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil -

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13.24-37

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

'Then they will see `the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 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.

'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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The 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 of Intercession

We come in faith to the throne of grace, offering our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Jonathan; Barrie; Betty; Roger; Jessie; Diane; Cynthia; Ali; Daniel; Mar; Janis Gallagher, Jenny & Andrew Priest; Elma Magnall; Jonathan Bellamy; Sandie Morrison; Rhys Williams; Lucy Nicholl.; Frances Kemp; Pat Steel, Maureen Steane, Brenda, Anita Murray, David Murray.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Jonathan Worsley; Roger Sessford; John Thomas George; Alfred Martlew; Roger Knight; Dave Morrison.

Those whose years mind falls at this time:

Vera Wright; Arthur Thomas Hankins; Lorna Brooks.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father.

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

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. *cf Luke 1.78,79*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.



Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn

**Hark, what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of His people's prayer?**

**Surely He cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb.**

**Surely He cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in His coming who hath sworn: I come!**

This hath He done, and shall we not adore Him?

This shall He do, and can we still despair?

**Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before Him,
Cast at His feet the burden of our care.**

**Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
He shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed.**

**Christ is the end, and Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.**

Frederick William Henry Myers (1843-1901)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray

The Lord is here.

His 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 give 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 singing:

Sanctus & Benedictus

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his
command,

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
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.

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.



Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

Agnus Dei

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

Giving of 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.**

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer

We use this prayer as a spiritual act of communion

**In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise
and thanksgiving.**

**I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may
always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite
myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live and die in your
love.**

Amen.

Hymn

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem Thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
who madest all in earth and sky;
creating man from dust and clay:
to us reveal salvation's Way.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

**O come, O come, Adonai,
who in Thy glorious majesty,**



**from Sinai's mountain, clothed in awe,
gavest Thy folk the ancient law.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

**O come, Thou Root of Jesse! Draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from those dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, Thy people save.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

**O come, Thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

**O come, O come, Thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls Thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

**O come, Desire of nations, show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Cologne 1710;
based on ancient Advent Antiphons
tr. T A Lacey (1853-1931)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

**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.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you

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.

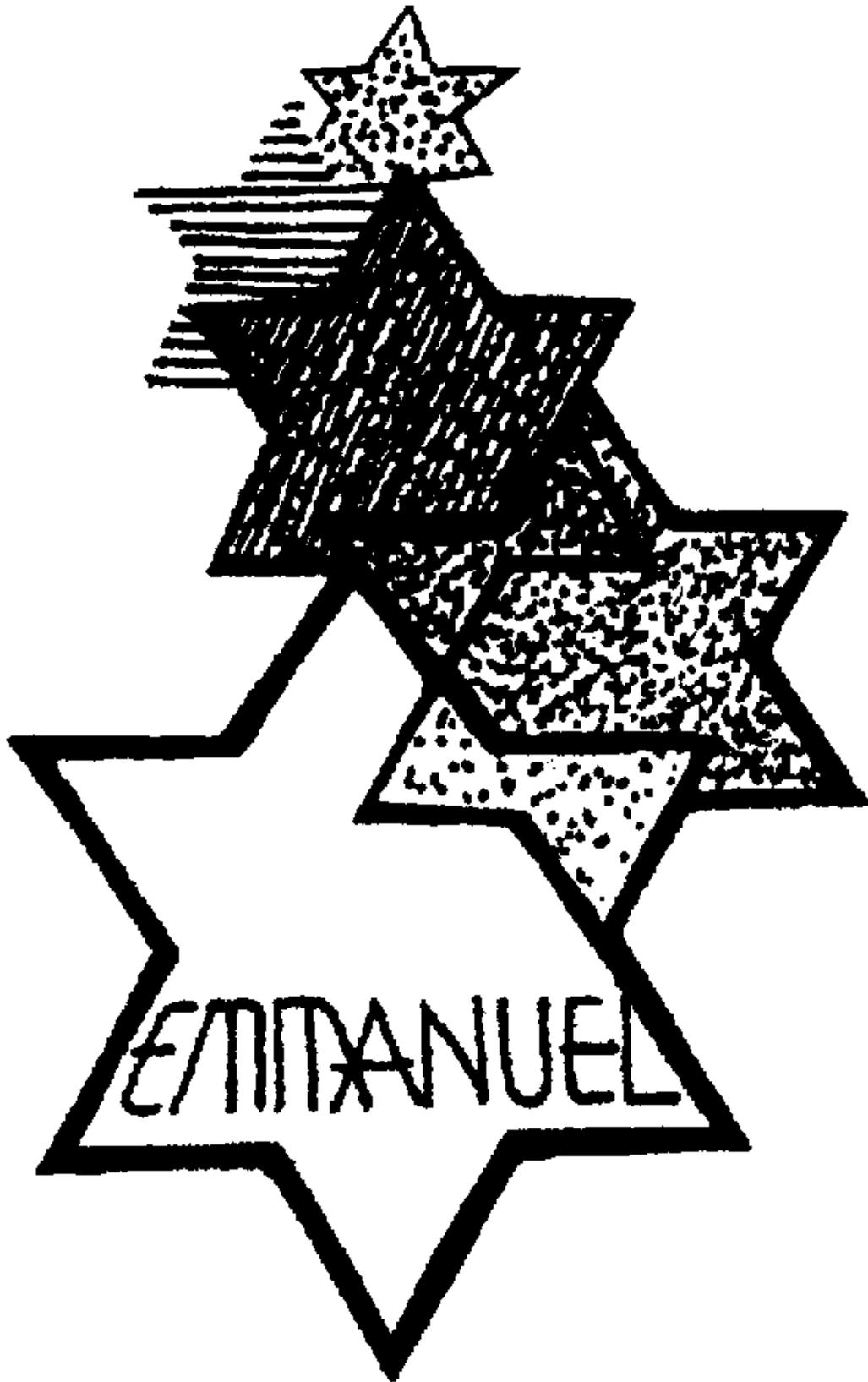
And the blessing ...

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The clergy depart.

Organ Voluntary



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