

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th December 2024

The Eucharist 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn AHB 198 / TIS 271. Tunes St Thomas. Franconia

- 1. The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing hasten on his road
his coming reign to meet.**
- 2. The everlasting Son
was born to make us free;
and he a servant's form put on
to gain our liberty.**
- 3. Let Zion now arise
to greet her infant king,
and gladly take with thankful heart
the peace he comes to bring.**
- 4. As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
his scattered people to unite,
with them in heaven to reign.**
- 5. Then evil flee away
before the rising dawn!
Let our old nature day by day
God's image still put on.**
- 6. Praise to the incarnate Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
to all eternity.**

Arrangement © Australian Hymn Book Co
Charles Coffin 1676–1749 tr. John Chandler 1806–76 and others

Welcome & Greeting

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

Blessed are those who will come
from east and west, from north and south,
to feast in the kingdom of God.

**The Advent Wreath
Advent 2 – Peace**

Second Candle is lit

The poet, Wendell Berry, wrote:

“When despair for the world grows in me . . .
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.”



We think of the 23rd Psalm,

“He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul.”

When everything feels hopeless, God calls us away from the
workaday world. God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of
peace. When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the
One who restores us.

**Whatever we face in life,
God’s Spirit of peace will dwell within.**

Kyrie

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

The Collect is said or sung

God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.
Make our conduct blameless,
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the prophecy of Malachi [3. 1-4]

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Zechariah (*Benedictus*—Luke 1.68–79)

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,**

**To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians [1. 1-11]

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: AHB 192 / TiS 264. Tune. Merton.

- 1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'**
- 2. Wakened by 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 now from heav'n;**

**let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.**

- 4. So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.**

Anon., Latin ?6th cent.
tr. Edward Caswall 1814–78 and others

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [3. 1-6]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon will be followed by a time of silence for reflection

Affirmation of Faith (APBA p. 37)

Let us affirm our faith

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for all who have told us of your love and your presence among us.

We give thanks for John the Baptist preparing the way for our Saviour. We give thanks for the Apostles and Evangelists.

Mighty God, guide and empower all preachers of the word and ministers of the sacraments.

Bless all who proclaim your love and glory through the arts, music, broadcasting and publishing, all who prepare hearts and minds for your coming.

Blessed Lord, hear us, **and set your people free.**

Lord of freedom and grace, we pray for all held prisoner by tyranny and oppression, all whose eyes are blind to your glory and deaf to your word.

We remember all who do not know or love you, all whose lives are darkened by fear.

Blessed Lord, hear us, **and set your people free.**

We give thanks for all who taught us the faith and led us to you, for all who have given us a glimpse of your glory.

We pray for teachers and religious education teachers, for families, friends and all who are dear to us.

We remember any who are having special difficulties or troubles at this time.

Blessed Lord, hear us, **and set your people free.**

Lord of love, we pray for all who are consumed with hatred, all who do not know how to accept or receive forgiveness, all who are not at peace with themselves or the world.

We remember all who are anxious and fearful at this time. We pray for all who are weakened by illness or incapacity,

especially . . .

Blessed Lord, hear us, **and set your people.**

Lord of Glory, you destroy the darkness of the shadow of death and open the kingdom of heaven to your loved ones.

We pray for the departed, that in your love they may rejoice in peace.

Blessed Lord, hear us, **and set Your people free.**

The priest says

Holy God, we look for you, we long for you.

Let us see that you come among us;

make us aware of your presence

and grant us a glimpse of glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

Silence may be kept

Most merciful God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Absolution. Standing, the priest says

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.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn AHB 197 / TiS 269. Tune, Bristol.

- 1. Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.**
- 2. On him the Spirit largely poured
exerts its sacred fire;
wisdom and might and zeal and love
his holy breast inspire.**
- 3. He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**
- 4. He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**
- 5. His silver trumpets publish loud
the jubilee of the Lord,
our debts are all remitted now,
our heritage restored.**
- 6. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's exalted arches ring
with your beloved name.**

Philip Doddridge 1702–51

Offertory prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks,
all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.
You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with angels and archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his friends, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.” ✠ ✠ ✠

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.” ✠ ✠ ✠

In obedience to this command:

We remember his death on the cross.

We proclaim the resurrection to new life.

We await Christ’s coming in glory.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. ✠
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

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

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us.

**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.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
AND THE COMMUNION

The Priest breaks the Bread

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Happy are those who share the banquet.

The Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace.**

The priest gives the Invitation.

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

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

AFTER COMMUNION

A quiet moment or two

God of new beginnings,
you draw near to us in word and sacrament
to strengthen and renew us;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
may your light so shine through us
that all may welcome your Son at his coming.

**Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever. Amen.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn AHB 199 / TiS 270. tune, Winchester New

1. **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.**
2. **Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
3. **For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**
4. **To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**
5. **To him who left the throne of heaven
to free us all, let praise be given;
and praise be to the Father done,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

Charles Coffin 1676–1749
tr. John Chandler 1806–76 alt.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from 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

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.