

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The First Sunday of Advent

Year C



The Parish Mass

Sunday 28th November 2021

10.15 am

¶ Let's keep protecting each other

We're so grateful for everything you've done to help keep each other safe. Every time you've sanitised your hands, worn a face covering and kept a safe distance, it's made a real difference. So from all of us, thank you. We all hope and pray brighter days are coming. But we want to reassure you that your safety is still our top priority.

The Government guidance, endorsed by the Church of England, 'expects and recommends' that we continue to:

Wear a face covering whilst in church *unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This should cover your nose as well as your mouth. There is strong evidence that face coverings help to both reduce spread and provide protection from Covid and as such we would request that wherever possible you continue to use one.*

Maintain physical distancing *We ask you to respect one another's space, spread out, and avoid sitting directly behind or in front of others. As far as possible, we ask you to avoid physical contact with other people and surfaces.*

Sanitise your hands *on arrival - pick up an order of service (large print editions may be requested in advance via the parish office) – and sign in for 'Test and Trace' purposes.*

The church toilet facilities *are available for use.*

Holy Communion *will be administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at one or two 'stations' at the front of the nave. Please approach via the centre aisle and return via the side aisles. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.*

If you have difficulty being mobile please let us know, sit on the end of a row, and we will come to you.

After the service *Please depart via the main porch sanitising your hands as you leave.*

*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor No. 4
who has generously financed the production of this week's booklet.*



¶ Introduction to the Season

Advent focuses our attention on the coming of Christ. We live between two comings of Christ – his first coming in humility and weakness at Bethlehem, and his second coming in majesty and power at the end of time. St Paul says that with each passing year ‘our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.’ Let us reflect for a moment on how much we need the Lord’s salvation in our lives and in the world.

Reflection

The hill flowers fade,
but will bloom again next year.
But we never get back our youth.
Life is fragile which we enjoy only briefly;
our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun.
We live in a flash of light;
before we know it, evening comes and night falls.
But the very fleetingness of life makes it all the more precious.
Lord, may your gentle and sure light
guide us on the unfolding road,
so that we may walk with confidence
towards the light that never fades
and the life that never ends.

Setting

*The Ordinary of the Mass is sung to the plainsong setting known as
Missa de Angelis*

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

Please stand at the sound of the bell

The Advent Prose

1. *Choir*
2. *All*



Drop down, ye hea-vens from a - bove, and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.

Choir Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee.

Hymn

The procession enters from the West End

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

Words: Frederic William Henry Myers (1843-1901)

Music: Highwood
Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The first purple candle is lit

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.**

All † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

All May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

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

Silence is kept

Confession

All **Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

 Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light:
 forgive us when we return to darkness.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

 Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world:
 cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
All **Christe eleison.**

 Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts:
 renew us in faith and love.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

 May the God of love bring you back to himself,
 forgive † you your sins,
 and assure you of his eternal love
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

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.

All

Amen.

Please be seated

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 33.14-16

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore



Choir To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **Response**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long. **Response**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love. **Response**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right
and teach his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **Response**

Psalm 25.1-9

Holy Gospel

Please stand

Acclamation



O Lord, let us see your mercy and give us your saving help.

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

All 

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 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. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

Luke 21.25-36

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All 

The Homily

Please be seated

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand

We say together in faith:
All **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
All **for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
All **for with his blood, he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
All **the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

Please be seated

After each petition

All God, our love and our light,
come to us and lighten our darkness.

After the final petition

Priest Heavenly Father,
in your mercy keep us free from sin
and protect us from anxiety
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

Sign of Peace

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.

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

With an appropriate gesture,
let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The altar is prepared

Hymn

All **Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling**
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?'
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.

Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
 She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
 Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
 Now come, thou precious Crown,
 Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
 Hosanna!
 Let us prepare
 To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.

Every soul in thee rejoices;
From men and from angelic voices
 Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
 We stand with Angels round thy throne.
 Earth cannot give below
 The bliss thou dost bestow.
 Alleluya!
 Grant us to raise,
 To length of days
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Words & melody: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)
Trans Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935)

Music: Wachet Auf
J S Bach (1685-1750)

Invitation to Prayer

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

All

**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.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, we pray that you will accept these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All 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 saying:

Choir Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

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

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domine.
Osanna in excelsis

*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.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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.

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:

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

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

Please be seated

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

All **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

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

Agnus Dei

Choir Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

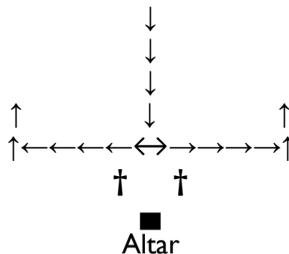
Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated below. Please approach the clergy via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing. If you wish to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.



Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

Act of Reception

All In union, blessed Jesus,
 with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
 where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
 and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
 my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.

Motet

A tender shoot

Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

*A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted,
From Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning darkness into light.*

*This shoot Isaiah taught us
From Jesse's root should spring,
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing,
Our God of endless might,
Gave her this child to save us
Thus turning darkness into light.*

Words anonymous 16th century
Trans. William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Please stand

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.

All

Amen.

**Generous God,
you feed 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.**

Hymn

All

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**

**Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
and justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.**

**Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.**

**The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.**

**For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done;
Thou in thine everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.**

Words: John Milton (1608-1674)

Music: St Stephen
William Jones (1726-1800)

Notices for the Community

Please be seated

¶ Sending Out

Please stand

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.
Amen.

All May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.
Amen.

All May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

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

Organ Voluntary

Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn BWV 601 *J S Bach (1685-1750)*

The procession departs

*Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish
to listen to the organ voluntary*

Collection

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church using the receptacle provided at the back of church.

If you are a tax payer, please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may in addition benefit from the Gift Aid associated with your giving.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.

Advent Carol Service
held this evening by candlelight
at 5.30 pm

Please do come

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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