

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove



Episcopal memes

Advent 1

29 November 2020

HYMN: Tis 276 There's a light upon the mountain

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures forever.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle – The Candle of Hope

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language – the *coming* of Christ – because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

First candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.

The ministers move to their places as the following hymn verse is sung.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

LA: We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we gather today – the Yuggera and Ugarapul people – and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

LA: From Mark 13, “Heaven and earth will pass away,” says the Lord, “but my words will not pass away.”

LA: [Let us pray.]
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.

P: Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

A reading from the book of Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God

Psalm 80.1-7,17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;

- 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**
- 3 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- 6 You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- 17 Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**
- 18 And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
- 19 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 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.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Hymn: 272 Come thou long expected Jesus

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 13 beginning at verse 24
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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.”

For the gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

LAs may sit in the congregation during the sermon

Sermon

Silence

LA:

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**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.**

LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

LA: Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.
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.**

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

LA: The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

LA: Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.

HYMN: GOD OF DAY AND GOD OF DARKNESS

God of day and God of darkness,
now we stand before the night.
As the shadows stretch and deepen,
come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning
for the dawning of your might.
When the Sun of peace and justice
fills the earth with radiant light.

Still the nations curse the darkness,
still the rich oppress the poor.
Still the earth is bruised and broken
by the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our sleeping,
so our hearts cannot ignore
all your people lost and broken,
all your children at our door.

Show us Christ in one another.
Make us servants strong and true.
Give us all your love of justice,
so we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy.
Let us pledge our lives anew.
Make us one with all the lowly.
Let us all be one in you.

You shall be the path that guides us;
you the light that in us burns.
Shining deep within all people,
yours the love that we must learn.
For our hearts shall wander restless
'til they safe to you return.
Finding you in one another,
we shall all your face discern.

Words: [Marty Haugen](#) (1985)

Music: "Beach Spring" CPDL

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Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings.

THANKSGIVING 1 (Advent)

P: 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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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 Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never ending praise:

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

The priest says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

NZ Prayer Book

Special Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the isle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.

While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion hymn while remaining seated.

Communion Hymn (Not announced): TiS 688 Come to be our Hope

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Announcements

Please stand for the blessing:

All loving God, as we begin our Advent pilgrimage
grant us the courage to hope -
 hope for your presence,
 hope for your peace,
 hope for your promise.
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection –
For the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

LA: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

HYMN: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church, gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell 1987 by OCP Publications Mission Praise 1201