



## HOLY COMMUNION (ADVENT)

A very warm welcome to St Mark's, especially if you are new today. Please do fill in an electronic welcome card on the church website (if you fill in a welcome card then we can let you know more about the life of the church and how you can get involved).

We are a church of all ages – so whether you're young or old or somewhere in between we hope that you'll feel welcomed and included in the service today.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement. The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, rather than penitence. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. For those like us in the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas (as demonstrated, for example, in the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath).

### **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

Come, Lord Jesus	<b>Come as King</b>
Rule in our hearts	<b>Come as love</b>
Rule in our minds	<b>Come as peace</b>
Rule in our actions	<b>Come as power</b>
Rule in our days	<b>Come as joy</b>
Rule in our darkness	<b>Come as light</b>
Rule in our bodies	<b>Come as health</b>
Rule in our labours	<b>Come as hope</b>
Thy Kingdom come	<b>Among us.</b>

### **Hymn**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

...in the light of Christ let us confess our sins:

**Creator of light and darkness,  
we so often chase shadows  
and fail to walk in the light.  
Forgive us O Lord.**

We travel through Advent  
as forgiven people,  
lifting our faces towards the light.  
Let us walk together  
in hope and in faith.

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

#### **The First Reading**

*At the end the reader may say...*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.** (cf Isaiah 40.3-5)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Creed (Declaration of Faith)**

We say together in faith

**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:

**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

who was slain:

**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:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'**

**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**

**Amen.**

### **Prayers**

*This or another response may be used...*

Maranatha

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

### **The Peace**

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

### **The Eucharistic Prayer (G)**

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.**

*The minister praises God for his mighty acts and all  
respond...*

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

*The minister recalls the Last Supper. These words  
are used...*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*and the Prayer ends...*

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

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because  
we all share in one bread.**

### **Giving of Communion (choir served first)**

*Any baptized person, wherever you are on your  
journey, is welcome to receive communion – we  
would love you to join us.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

### **Final Hymn**

### **Closing Prayer**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**