

Holy Communion

Advent Season



Welcome!

All are welcome to our worship, regardless of age, gender, race, home situation, social standing or singing ability. We particularly welcome wailing babies, wandering toddlers, wondering adults and those who refuse to grow up. We welcome you whether you have been a Christian for many years, or whether this is your first time in a church – we are pleased you have joined us as we, too search for God and wrestle with life’s questions.

Advent

This season begins the Church’s year. We prepare for Christmas and remember Jesus’s promise to return. The season’s colour is “royal” purple, reminding us of this royal birth.

Advent is a season that is divided into two parts. The readings and prayers for the first part, emphasise a period of preparation for the second coming, the return of Christ, as judge at the end of the world. The Advent hymns are full of this theme.

From the middle of December the theme looks forward to the coming of Christ as a baby. The readings and prayers for this part emphasise our need to prepare for the celebration of the first coming at Bethlehem.

Advent Candle Prayers

Advent 1: Hope *(one candle is lit)*

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.

Amen.

Advent 2: Peace *(two candles are lit)*

Lord, would you bring your strength and peace to your people! Would your presence be felt by all who seek you in a powerful way in this Advent season. Turn the hearts of all towards you. We pray that the lost turn to you and find an unshakable peace that nothing else in this world can offer.

Amen*.*

Advent 3: Joy *(three candles are lit)*

Lord, the good news of Jesus’ arrival brings such joy to our world! Reach those who are lost and searching with the message of hope that we have through the Messiah. God, allow your message of peace to bring comfort to our anxious world. As we all go about this advent season, let the message of great joy pierce through all the noise and into people's hearts.

Amen.

Advent 4: Love *(four candles are lit)*

Dear God,

As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion,

grant us the courage to share your love.

Love for the unexpected challenge,

Love for the vulnerable one.

Love for the presence of God. Amen.

The Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Greeting

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength”.

The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself”.

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and

the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

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

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Collect

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

Amen

First Reading

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *Stand*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed *Stand*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made

For us and for our salvation he came down from

heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living

and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped

and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

*The following response may be used*

Lord as we await your coming

hear our prayer.

*At the end*

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Peace *Stand*

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 *saying:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread he praised you. He broke it and gave it to them and said:

Take eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine,

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

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.

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.

Giving of Communion

We do not presume

to come to this your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy

so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord

whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,

so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ

and to drink his blood,

that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

*All are welcome to receive communion, which will be brought to you in your seats.*

Prayer after Communion

*The post-communion collect is said, followed by*

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,

that when we were still far off

you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,

Gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life;

we who drink his cup bring life to others;

we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so we and all your children shall be free,

and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,

scatter the darkness from before 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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Looking ahead – we’d love you to join us:

Saturday 4th December

Great Bitterne Festive Bake Off in the Parish Hall 3pm

Sunday 5th December

Ecumenical Ramble - 2.00pm

Sunday 12th December

Nativity & Toy Service - 9.30am at Bitterne CE Primary

Saturday 18th December

The Nativity on the Move – a walking tour of Bitterne!

Sunday 19th December

Carols by Candlelight - 7.30pm in Holy Saviour

Wednesday 22nd December

Blue Christmas Service – a space for those who have lost loved ones to remember at this time of year - 7:30pm in Holy Saviour

Christmas Eve:

9:30 – Christmas Community Breakfast

11am, 3pm 5pm - Christingle services in Holy Saviour \*ticketed event\*

11pm Christmas Communion

Christmas Day:

9:30am Christmas Celebration for all ages in Holy Saviour

Boxing Day – Sunday 26th December:

11am Holy Communion service in Holy Saviour.