

## **An Order for Holy Communion in Advent**

### **Welcome**

**Candle lighting, Trinity and Advent representing the prophets, the patriarchs, John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of Jesus.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All: and also with you.**

Our service this morning is for the last Sunday of Advent before Christmas, last minute preparation. We're also remembering the announcement by the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son our Saviour.

Let us sing our first hymn of preparation and rejoicing.

**Hymn: O come, O come Emmanuel**

### **Invitation to confession**

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

### **Confession.**

**All: 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.**

### **Words of reassurance**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who turn to him he says: 'Your sins are forgiven.' He also says: 'Follow me.'

**All: Amen.**

### **Gloria**

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary, Born a child, you are one with us. Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David; Born to rule, you reign in our hearts, Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of Man; Born to save, you are the light of the world. Glory to God in the highest.

### **Collect for the fourth Sunday of Advent**

Heavenly Father, Who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary . To be the mother of our promised saviour:

Fill your servants with your grace, That in all things we may embrace your holy will And with her rejoice in your salvation: through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**All: Amen**

**Reading:** Reading from the book of Mary by Nicola Slee. The Annunciation

**Hymn:** The Virgin Mary had a baby boy

**Reading:** Matthew 1.18-25

### **Talk**

Let us declare our faith in God  
Do you believe and trust in God the Father  
Source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
Who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

### **Our prayers of Intercession ending with the Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
All 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**

### **Dedication of our offerings**

Eternal God, we come with these gifts to offer the praise of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Peace**

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!

**All: And also with you.**

Let us exchange a token of peace with one another.

### **Hymn: Tell out my soul**

### **The Approach to Communion**

As we gather at this table, we remember that Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on the third day God raised him from the dead; and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit. In his presence, and in the company of all the people of God, past, present, and to come, we celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Jesus says, 'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

### **Narrative of the Institution**

Hear again the words of institution of this feast as they are given by the Apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.☞

### **Thanksgiving and Sharing**

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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, that from the earth you cause the grain to come for the making of bread. We praise you for Christ, the bread of life, whose body was given for us. By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this loaf, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body of Christ, and that we may be made one in him. As of old you fed your people in the wilderness, so feed us now that we may live to your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The minister breaks the bread saying: When Jesus had given thanks, he broke the bread and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

We give thanks to you, O God, that you cause the vine to yield fruit. We bless you for Christ, the true vine, whose blood was poured out for us. By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this wine, that the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the blood of Christ, and that through abiding in him we may bear fruit that shall last. As we share the sufferings of Christ, so give us grace that we may know the power of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The distribution takes place. Invite those at home.

**Hymn during Communion:** Like a candle flame

**Thanksgiving Prayer**

**Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things. May the ears that have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute. May the eyes that have seen your great love shine with the light of hope. May the tongues that have sung your praise also speak the truth. May the feet that have walked in your house ever walk in the light. May the bodies that have tasted your living body be restored to newness of life. Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words. Amen**

**Hymn:** Make Way

**Blessing**

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 ...

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ, Amen.**