



St Edward the Confessor Church  
Dringhouses, York



Holy Communion  
Advent

## **Welcome to the Season of Advent, the start of the new Church year.**

Advent is a time when we look at the world with three horizons in view.

The first is our looking forward to our Christmas celebrations of the birth of Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. Secondly, we also look forward to our meeting with that same Jesus in our worship and in our daily lives in the year ahead. The third horizon is the one that can feel more distant as we look forward to the day when Christ will return as King and judge over all creation. Keeping these three horizons in view can be a challenge, but it is something that we must do if we are to enter more fully into the awesome nature of all that God has done, is doing, and will do in the person of his Son, Jesus.

The readings and liturgies during this season not only excite us with the anticipation of Christ's birth, but they can also feel uncomfortable as they invite us to wrestle with The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – which have been traditional themes for Advent meditation.

Advent chimes with our longing for things to be different. During Advent, we are reminded that life does have a direction and purpose, and that, whatever we may currently be experiencing, there is hope to be found in the person of Jesus, and that one day all things will find their rest in Him.

The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, with the fundamental Advent prayer being 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

As we journey through Advent may we make that prayer our own, and may we find hope building in our hearts, even as we long to see God's Kingdom come and His will being done.

## **Holy Communion in Advent (B)**

*Everyone joins in the parts that are in **bold print***

### **WE GATHER**

### **OPENING HYMN**

### **The Greeting**

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

### **Lighting of the Candles on the Advent Wreath**

### **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.**

*A minister uses these or other suitable words to introduce the 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.

*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

**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.**

*This prayer may be used*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Or*

**Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison**

## Absolution

*The minister says this, or an alternative prayer of absolution*

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 prayer for the day is said and all respond* **Amen.**

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### The Reading

*At the end of the reading the reader says;*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN

**The Gospel** (*standing*) *when announced*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end the reader says:*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

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.

## WE PRAY

### Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*and at the end*

**Merciful Father,**

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION

### The Peace

*The minister says*

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.

*Luke 1.78,79*

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

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### HYMN

## Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give 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.**

*(from the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December)*

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*:



*(from 17 December until Christmas Eve)*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.  
In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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 the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty 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.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*OR*

**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

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion is administered at the front of the church. You will be guided by the sidespeople.*

*If you are visiting and you would normally receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to do so here.*

*If you require a gluten-free wafer, please indicate to the person administering.*

*If you do not intend to receive Communion you are welcome to come forward to the altar step for a blessing. Please hold this service booklet in your hands as an indication to the ministers.*

*You are also welcome to remain in your seat and take time to pray or join in with the Communion Hymns that will be displayed on the screens in Church.*

### **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.**

## **WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING**

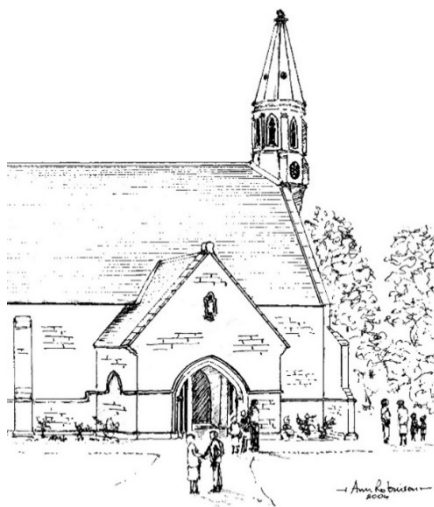
*This or another suitable blessing is used*

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.

**HYMN**

**Dismissal**

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



This Service Booklet was donated to the Church in loving memory of  
Joy Wilson 1930-2016.

## **Possible prayers for the lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### **Advent 1      The Patriarchs**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas,  
be King of our lives today.  
Amen.

### **Advent 2      The Prophets**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
the prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas  
and show all the world God's love.  
Amen.

### **Advent 3      John the Baptist**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.  
Amen.

### **Advent 4      The Virgin Mary**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
Amen.

Having met with the Living God and with the rest of the Christian family in this service, we continue our journey through Advent, longing to see the Kingdom of God breaking into our lives and into the world around us, that we might all be aware of the presence of 'God with us' and that we may know that there is hope.

You may find these prayers helpful as you journey through this week:

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you  
for all the benefits that you have won for us,  
for all the pains and insults  
that you have borne for us.  
Most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.



(Prayers taken from Church of England web site (<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/commonworship/>). The material on this site is copyright © The Archbishops' Council or reproduced with permission from other copyright owners.)



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