



## Order of Service for Advent Sunday

### Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our service this morning on this Advent Sunday. It is lovely to have you with us this morning whether you are joining on Zoom or following the service at home as we mark the beginning of the season of Advent. As we prepare for worship this morning let us take a moment to be still in the presence of God.

### Call to worship

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we have come to worship you in the glad season of Advent, a season of waiting, of expectation, of celebration, and, above all, preparation. We come now, because we want to be ready – ready to give thanks for your coming, to recognise the ways you come to us now and to welcome you when you come again. Open our hearts as we worship you, so that we may have a deeper understanding of this season and a fuller experience of your love. In your name we ask it. **Amen**

### Hymn: O Come O come Emmanuel

### A prayer of approach

Lord Jesus Christ, we come today yearning to welcome, worship, meet and greet you but conscious also that, just as many were not ready to receive you when you first came into the world, so we too can be less prepared than we think, our narrow expectations or misplaced assumptions closing our minds to your presence among us. So, we ask that, as we draw near to you, you will draw near to us, stirring our hearts and capturing our imagination. Prepare us to recognise you afresh at work in our lives and our world, and so make us ready to serve you, today and always.

**Amen**

### Advent confession

Advent is a time of getting ready in our lives ready to welcome Jesus once again. We come asking God for his forgiveness for all that we have done wrong and remembering all the wrong in our world. *Pause.*

Lord, forgive us for forgetting that you are God and for failing to follow your ways.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, forgive us for pointing out the faults in others and forgetting our own mistakes.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, forgive us for going our own way and ignoring our own mistakes.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord, forgive us for hurting those closest to us and not building relationships with others.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord forgive us for overlooking those who seem to be of no account and forgetting how special each one of us is to you. Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the fellowship of his table with the saints forever. **Amen**

### **Collect for Advent Sunday**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,  
**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,  
**for the night is far spent.**

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,  
**for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,  
**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

### **Hymn: Lo he come with clouds descending**

### **Reading: Mark 13: 24-end**

### **Talk**

I have made a video of the talk.

### **Creed**

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.**  
**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.**  
**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**  
**We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

### **Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord**

### **Prayers**

I have made a video of the prayers.

As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, let us pray together to the God who loves us always and forever.

Holy God, just as we are we come to you, and ask for your kingdom to come in us and in this place; increase our faith and our love for you, so that we may become the lights in the darkness that we are called to be. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly every day. May we see with your eyes the signs of hope and victory, the opportunities for loving services, for encouragement, reassurance, and

thanksgiving. We pray for the leaders of the nations and all those in authority under them grant them your gifts of wisdom, integrity, and compassion. May the world work together to protect the environment and to care for all people but especially the vulnerable. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, bless the parenting and befriending in our relationships and increase our love for one another. We pray for our local community and in particular all those who are finding life difficult and challenge at this time for whatever reason, help them to have hope and to see the light and love all around them. We prayer for all those who work in the NHS, care and nursing homes, bless them in their work as they care for others and provide them with the means to care for themselves. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we bring to you in love those who are weary with ongoing pain and weakness, those who are frail with age and all who are vulnerable; Pour your living strength into their lives. We pray for all those who are suffering weather in body, mind, or spirit and in a moment of silence we name any know to us before you. Silence. Surround them and those who love and care for them with your healing and love. Lord in your merch. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for all who have come to the end of their earthly life, for the many ways they have blessed the lives of others and for those whose lives feel empty without them. Give comfort to the bereaved, and everlasting peace to all who rest in your love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, in a moment of silence we offer our own prayers to You. *Silence*

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **The Lord's prayer**

### **The peace**

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

*I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. "..... (the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.*

### **Hymn: Christ be our light**

#### **We go out**

**Come and bring light to dispel our darkness. Come and bring hope to drive out our fear. Come and bring joy to banish our sorrow. Come and bring love to fill our longing hearts, that through us the whole world may come into your light. Amen**

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 with you now and always. Amen

Our lord says, 'I am coming soon. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
May the lord, when he comes find us watching and waiting. **Amen**

Material for this service is taken from Common Worship: Services and prayers for the Church of England and New Patterns for Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, The Bumper Book of Resources: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Edited by John Cox Kevin Mayhew 2015, Prayers of Intersessions for common Worship but Susan Sayers, Kevin Mayhew 2002 and Festivals Together: Creating all-age worship through the year by Sandra Millar, SPCK 2012.