

ANGLICAN PARISH OF CLEVEDON

"A Christ - Centred Community of Extravagant Welcome and Radical Hospitality"

Advent 1

Sunday 1 December 2019



Our Liturgy begins in the Glebe Land., as we open the first seven boxes of the Community Advent Calendar. Feel free to look in the boxes before the liturgy begins.

Presider & Preacher: The Reverend Sarah Park

OPENING THE ADVENT CALENDAR

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day which the Lord has made.

We shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us pray.

O God you are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

We gather in this first week of the liturgical year,
a week named for hope.

We open these first seven letterboxes, and as we do so,
we ask your blessing on each person who will come here,
bringing questions, bringing pain,
bringing delight and uncertainty.

May what they encounter here invite them to deeper hope.

**Gracious God, help us also to be a light of Hope
to those who are in need of encouragement and solace.**

In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We sing as we move into the church

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God draws near:
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, true Wisdom from on high,
who orders all to mind and eye:
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to grow.
Rejoice, rejoice!...

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might
who long ago on Sinai's height
gave all your tribes the ancient law,
in cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice, rejoice!...

4 O come, true Branch of Jesse, free
your children from this tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
to rise victorious from the grave:
Rejoice, rejoice!...

5 O come, strong Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
upon our journey give relief,
and close the path to pain and grief.
Rejoice, rejoice!...

6 O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:
Rejoice, rejoice!...

7 King of the Nations, come, embrace
and unify the human race;
command our sad division cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice, rejoice!...

GATHERING

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
**Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
that we may learn God’s ways and walk in God’s paths.**
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Cantor *Hope is a light*
All **Hope is a light**
Cantor *Hope is a light to show the way*
All **Hope is a light to show the way**
Cantor *Light the candle of hope*
All **Light the candle of hope.**

REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS

We come seeking forgiveness for the thoughts, words, actions and inactions which have gone against the grain of God's love.

Silence

Let us confess our sins and the sins of our community.

**O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love,
and teach us to live in a way
that brings honour and glory to your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, in your baptism you were bathed in light and clothed with grace.

Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Know that you are forgiven and live in hope and in peace. **Amen.**

SENTENCE

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:42

COLLECT

**O God of our people and every people
let your Word ring out from the mountains
and your Spirit shine forth in the earth,
so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will;
through Jesus Christ, our hope. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

THE READINGS

- *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

- *Romans 13:11-14*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

1. Born in the night, Mary's child, a long way from your home;
coming in need Mary's child, born in a borrowed room.
2. Clear shining light, Mary's child, your face lights up our way;
light of the world, Mary's child, dawn on our darkened day.
3. Truth of our life, Mary's child, you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's child, go to your cross of wood.
4. Hope of the world, Mary's child, you're coming soon to reign;
king of the earth, Mary's child walk in our street again.

Geoffrey Ainger

- *Matthew 24:36-44*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Praise and glory to God.

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS

To the bidding: Come, light of the world
Please respond: **bring hope and faith, we pray.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard:

*Jesus lives again, earth can live again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound.*
2. Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express: *Jesus lives again,...*
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God-Immanuel everywhere: *Jesus lives again, ...*

Fred Kaan

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And with your Spirit.

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.

It is right and a good and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You call all people to follow your paths of justice and peace,
beating their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
In the light of your holy Word we look for the day
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
or learn war anymore.

Therefore, with the entire company of heaven,
and with your people on earth who live in this hope,
we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son,
for he is Immanuel, God with us.

Fulfilling the expectations of the prophets
he healed the blind and the lame,
cleansed the lepers, opened the ears of the deaf,
raised the dead, and brought good news to the poor.

Through his life, death, and resurrection
you manifest your new covenant with humankind,
and through the church of his disciples
you give testimony to the power of your salvation for the world.

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat, this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over,
he took the cup and gave thanks, saying,
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this is remembrance of me.

Therefore in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we give ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice
in union with Christ's offering for the world as we declare:

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
gathered here out of love for you,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Let the bread we break
be a true fellowship in the body of Christ.
Let the cup we share
be a true participation in the new covenant in his blood.

By your Spirit empower us to be Christ for the world,
serving in his name
until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all glory and honour is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

As Christ teaches us we pray and sing

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Come God's people.
Come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Please stand or kneel as is your custom. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by keeping your hands by your side.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creator God,
We praise you for your love in coming to us,
unworthy though we are.
Give us grace to accept the Christ who comes in your name,
and the courage to be Christ for others. **Amen.**

NOTICES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BLESSING

FINAL HYMN

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us;
make us your living voice. *Christ be our light! ...*
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Christ be our light! ...*
4. Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Christ be our light! ...*
5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Christ be our light! ...*

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

DISMISSAL

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen! We go in the name of Christ.

Practices for Advent

The Examen

Take several minutes of silence in the evening – alone or with others – to review the day.

Ask God to bring to your awareness the moment for which you are **most grateful**. Ask,

- *If I could re-live one moment, which would it be?*
- *When was I most able to give and receive love today?*

As the silence continues ask God to bring to your awareness the moment for the day for which you are **least grateful**. Ask,

- *What was today's low point?*
- *What was my biggest struggle today?*

Then prayerfully commit those things to God. Over the course of Advent, notice the themes that emerge. What might God be saying to you?

Reverse Advent Calendar

Go and get yourself an empty box on the way home from church, and every day of Advent put an item of non-perishable food in it. As you do so, read aloud the Advent prayer from our Prayer Book:

Give us courage, God our strength,
to see your Christ in all who suffer,
to be hands to the helpless,
food for the hungry
and rescue for the oppressed.¹

Then sometime in the week before Christmas, take your box of food to the City Mission.

¹ A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, 526.

Download the *Pray as You Go* app and listen to their daily reading and prayer practice, or their Advent and Christmas Ignatian series.

Take up a *21 Day "No complaints challenge."* Every time you find yourself complaining, you have to go back to day one. Over time something fundamentally shifts within. Check out this clip by an American Rabbi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0aq0n-enRg>

Read *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* out loud with someone. Notice the ways in which Advent anticipation is expressed – especially by Mr and Mrs Beaver.

Advent Intercessory Calendar

Commit each day of Advent to pray for a different person. Either write a list of people and check them off one at a time, or allow God to bring to your awareness the person to pray for each day. Then write that person a card to tell them that you have prayed for them as a way of seeking to draw closer to God and others in the season of Advent.

