

# St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Sunday Service.

Each Sunday in Advent we remember someone special in the story of Jesus' birth. Today we especially remember the prophets, and John the Baptist who came like one of the Old Testament prophets to prepare the way for God's Word.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

## Gathering

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

*All* **and also with you.**

## Hymn: Long ago prophets knew (406)

## Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth  
to share with those around us the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ  
the light who is coming into the world  
**Amen.**

## 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.

*All* **Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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.

*All Amen.*

## Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ  
comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

*All Amen.*

## Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants.

The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the Lord's will and honour him and find pleasure in obeying him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay; he will judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. At his command the people will be punished, and evil persons will die. He will rule his people with justice and integrity.

Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake.

On Zion, God's sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil. The land will be as full of knowledge of the Lord as the seas are full of water. A day is coming when the new king from the royal line of David will be a symbol to the nations. They will gather in his royal city and give him honour.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: 72:1-7

Teach the king to judge with your righteousness, O God;  
share with him your own justice, so that he will rule over your people with justice  
and govern the oppressed with righteousness.

**May the land enjoy prosperity; may it experience righteousness.  
May the king judge the poor fairly; may he help the needy and defeat their oppressors.**

May your people worship you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon gives light, for ages to come.

**May the king be like rain on the fields, like showers falling on the land.  
May righteousness flourish in his lifetime,  
and may prosperity last as long as the moon gives light.**

### Gradual Hymn: On Jordan's bank (527)

#### Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia!**

#### Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"

John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!' " John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, "You snakes - who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire.

I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

This is the Gospel of the Lord      **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Talk

### Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

*All*    **Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and has given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Intercessions

*Between the prayers we say*

Lord, in your mercy

*All*    **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say*

Merciful God,

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

### The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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

*We share a sign of peace*

### Offertory Hymn: The kingdom of God (646)

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

And now we give you thanks because when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago  
and opened for us the way of salvation.

So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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 St. Christopher 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.

*All* **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.**

### Distribution of Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.*

## Communion Hymn: Wait for the Lord (949)

### Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for private prayer)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

### Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming that,  
when he comes again, we may be ready to  
greet him with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen

### Notices

## Hymn: How lovely on the mountains (295)

### Blessing and Dismissal

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.

*All* Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Refreshments will be served, and you are invited to sit in small groups.  
Please respect that others may not be comfortable with close contact.*

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