



St Michael with St Mary

Holy Communion in Advent



Dom Gregory Murray



Welcome

Welcome to this parish: two Christian communities, part of the Church of England, worshipping and serving Jesus in western St Albans. For more information please take a welcome leaflet from the back of church or search our website.

You have come to a service of Holy Communion: we hear God's Word through the Bible, and share Jesus' presence in bread and wine. Christians from different traditions worship here and we do our best to meet a breadth of need.

Along with a blue hymn book (found in each pew), this booklet contains much or all of what you will need for today's service. We say the **bold type** words together. Words in *italics* offer practical information for example about when to stand or sit. Words in boxes explain the reason for what we do and say.

Singing is an important part of praise and prayer. In addition to the hymns, music for the parts of the service (the 'setting') is printed in this booklet. The setting in this booklet is by Dom Gregory Murray.

Sit where you feel most comfortable. Apart from a few seats for people with specific jobs, no spaces are reserved.

If you have children with you who need time out, the tower room at the back of St Michael's contains toys and books. During school term time, age-specific groups for children run in the Parish Centre and adjacent school.

Toilets and baby change facilities are available. Please see a steward for access.

If you have a hearing amplification device, use setting 'T'; the strongest signal is in the main body of the church forward from the entrance door.

**If you need large print
please ask a steward**



Advent

Advent is a season of expectation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the arrival (Latin *adventus*) of Jesus at Christmas. We also look to his return as judge at the end of time. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has made it harder to sustain a sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (I Corinthians 16.22). The 'Four Last Things' – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. Church decorations are simple and spare, purple is the colour of the season, and silence during worship enhances the sense of waiting on God.

In the northern hemisphere, Advent falls in winter, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success since the latter part of the twentieth century. In the Middle Ages, the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of 'Great "O" Antiphons', verses of expectation, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.



Before we begin

Ideally there is time to still ourselves in God's presence before the service. You may like to use these seasonal prayers.

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song!

○ Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

○ King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making two into one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

○ Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.



Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
Amen.

The Gathering

Hymn or Song

Please stand

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

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome; a candle on the Advent wreath may be lit



Prayers of Penitence

We kneel or sit

Words of introduction

Kyrie Eleison

Lord - - have mer - cy, Lord - - have mer - cy;

5
Christ - - have mer - cy, Christ - - have mer - cy;

9
Lord - - have mer - cy, Lord - - have mer - cy.

Concluded with these or other words

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The words of praise known as the Gloria are not said in Advent

The Collect

The prayer for the day

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Sit

At the end of each the reader may say
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn or Song

After which, we remain standing in respect for:

The Gospel

Before the reading

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

At the end

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

Sermon

Please sit after the introductory prayer

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 19



We stand for

The Creed

**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.

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit

We pray for the Church, the world, the local community and particular needs

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

or

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

and at the end

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



Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

'The peace' is a celebration of friendship as we prepare to meet Jesus in and through the bread and wine of Communion. It may seem a little odd if you have not seen it before but, if you feel comfortable, please shake hands with a few people and say 'peace' or 'peace be with you'.

Stand

Words of introduction

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

Hymn or Song

Preparation of the Table

This prayer for Christ's second advent comes from a very early Christian text known as *The Didache* ('The Teaching'):

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord,
may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

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.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

A seasonal 'Proper Preface' may be added here

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

Sanctus and Benedictus

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus and Benedictus. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is marked 'organ' and begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name - of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you 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 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

Kneel or sit

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.**

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

Agnus Dei

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins

10

1. 2. 3.

of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Please come to one of the altars.

If you take Communion in your home church you are very welcome to do so here.

If Communion is something you are not used to we would love to share a prayer of blessing; please bring this booklet with you to indicate that this is what you would like.

During Communion the choir will sing an anthem

Prayer after Communion

Sit

A collect may be said, and then

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.****

Dismissal

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 25

Hymn or Song

Stand

Notices

Sit

The president will use a seasonal blessing followed by

**May the Lord, when he arrives,
find us watching and waiting. **Amen.****

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*



Baptism Appendix

At the beginning

The president may use these or other introductory words:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

At the Collect

The president may use these or other introductory words:

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

Amen.

Presentation of the Candidates

At the end of the sermon we stand and face the font

The baptismal part of the service begins with a commitment of congregation, parents and godparents to support the candidate/s in their growth in faith

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome N (*and M...*) and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The president addresses the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy.

Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them,

draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

Parents and godparents: With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.

You speak for them today.

Will you care for them,

and help them to take their place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Parents and godparents: With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

Baptism involves a two-way movement,
away from sin and towards God -
seen here and in the creed on the next page

The president addresses the congregation

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess
together with these candidates
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

This prayer recalls the use of water in the Bible, as a sign of the life which God gives us and of his washing us clean from sin



Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation

Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Baptism

N, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

Signing with the Cross

*The president makes the sign of the cross
on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

*The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to
sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates
have been signed, the president says*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

The president says

May God,
who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.
Amen.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Please turn back to page 9

The Dismissal

Notices

Sit

Hymn or Song

*Please stand for this hymn,
during which the parents
come to the front of church*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

This candle is a permanent reminder of today's baptism;
its light is taken from the Easter candle
which we rededicate each year
as a sign of Christ's risen life among us

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The president will use a seasonal blessing followed by

May the Lord, when he arrives,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*





Please return this booklet to the back of church as you leave

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