

Lillington Parish Church
Knowing • Growing • Going

ADVENT COMMUNION



Come, Lord Jesus!

Entrance Hymn

Welcome and Introduction

In the beginning, when it was very dark,
God said: 'Let there be light.'
And there was light.

God's light goes on shining in the darkness
and the darkness has never put it out.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Come, follow the light that shines for you
and leads you to a stable with manger and child.
Lord, we have followed the light.

Come, listen for the voice that calls you
to find new life in the broken corners of the world.
Lord, we have heard the voice.

Come, rich and poor, neighbour or stranger,
gather round and share a celebration with the Prince of Peace.
Lord, we have gathered to meet with you.

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
With salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May God release us to travel through Advent as forgiven
and forgiving people: may we lift up our faces towards the light,
and walk together in hope and in faith. **Amen.**

The Collect

The First Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Address

Our Faith

We believe in God,
**who creates and gives life to the world;
whose compassionate love is beyond our imagining,
yet closer than our breathing.**

We believe in Jesus:
**the Truth of God, the challenger of false values;
the living Word of God inviting us to new beginnings.**

We believe in the Spirit,
**breathing into us renewing power,
interpreting our longing for truth
and probing with us the depths of God's Wisdom.**

We believe in the company of God's people,
**called to follow the Way of Christ;
heirs to the promises of God, which sustain us in what we know
and invite us to travel on in discovery, hope and peace. Amen.**

The Prayers

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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

The Peace

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn 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.

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

Hymn

The Preparation

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 him thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

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.

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

And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and,
taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy
will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms and bring us
with Mary Magdalene and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
O loving 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.

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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Be strengthened by the life of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who was born in a stable to be the living bread
and died on a cross having poured out his love
so we may drink from God's cup of forgiveness.

Eat and drink. Take him into your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

After Communion

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us and blessing us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Travel with us through this season of Advent,
shine into the dark corners of our world, lead us into ways of justice,
warm us with joy and wonder, and bring us to new birth. **Amen.**

The Notices

Hymn

The Blessing

Let us go in faith to ponder in our hearts the mystery of this moment.

And may life be born with us, Christ Jesus be seen among us
and joy surround us like the angel's song.

And the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love
this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 1 – Hail to the Lord's anointed 280

Hail to the Lord's anointed;
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgressions,
And rule in equity.

He comes, with succour speedy,
To those who suffer wrong:
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong:
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turned to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth:
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth:
Before Him, on the mountains,
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever
His changeless name of love.

Hymn 2 - Oh thou who camest from above 580

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Hymn 3 – On Jordan's bank 589

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace we waste away,
Like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son to thee
Whose advent doth they people free,
Whom with the father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

Hymn 4 - Glorious things of thee are spoken 223 - Abbots Leigh

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river
ever flows and thirsts assuage?

Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy Name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
boasted pomp and empty show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

Readings

Jeremiah 29: 1,11-14a

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

John 14:8-14

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who

dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.