

The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham
**The 9.30am Eucharist in
Advent 2020**



The Season of Advent is a time of readying and preparation, as we focus our hearts and lives for a joyful birth and a closer walk with God.

Before the service we gather as one, conscious that we are united with people all over the world in this moment and in our shared purpose, which is our shared longing to come face to face with the living God who calls us to follow him.

Incense rises like our prayer and is deeply Biblical. The thurible is used to cense holy things- the altar, the Gospel Book, the elements on the altar, and us, God's holy people.

*An Advent Antiphon is sung,
turning our hearts to this timeless season
of stark and simple stillness.*

The Gathering

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

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction follow.
The candles of the Advent Wreath are lit
with a prayer and a call to faithfulness.
We respond: **Come, Lord Jesus, come.***

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Penitence

*A time of silence is kept as we recall our sin
and our need of God.*

Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
**I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart,
my neglect and forgetfulness
of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking and speaking:
the hurts I have done to others;
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me,
for I have sinned against you:
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on 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. **Amen.**

The Collect

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**
*A moment of silent prayer follows.
At the end of the Collect **Amen.***

The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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

And at the end...

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

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,
*he became 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.**

The Prayers

At the end of each section, a response is used:

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

*During the peace we hold out Christ's peace to
one another with a smile, a wave or the use of
Sign Language. If you're joining in from home
(or even in Church) do please put your message
in the comment box on YouTube.*

The Preparation of the Altar

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands, for the praise and glory
of his Name, for our good
and the good of all his Church.**

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest: **and make yourself
known in the breaking of the bread.**

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.

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.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us
in your Kingdom and teach us to pray
Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Invitation

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Christ is in our midst.
He is and he always will be.

*The celebrant will say "The Body of Christ,
broken for you" at the altar. Please come forward
as you are guided, keeping 2m away from others.
The wafer will be placed in your hand in silence
and then you are invited to return to your seat
by going along the side aisle.*

*If you are joining in at home
you might find this a helpful prayer to use:*
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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Loving Father,
your Son Jesus Christ has come to us
in word and Spirit, in bread and cup.
Make us holy and bring us to perfection
when we stand before him as he comes
to judge the living and the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[or] The PMC Parish Prayer

God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Notices & Banns of Marriage

The Dismissal

*[which all happens from the altar or legilium
and not from the West End of Church]*

The Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*After the service you are welcome to listen to the
music and then to leave via the South Door.
There will be a collection plate and debit card
machine as you leave if you would like to make a
donation to support the work of the parish.
Do please use the handgel as you leave as well.*

*And if you have been joining in at home, then do
join in with the Zoom coffee morning after the
service- you'd be very welcome. You can text a
donation to St Paul's to 70450, texting
STPAULS5 or STPAULS10 to donate that
amount of money.*



Advent Calendar

by Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.