

**Welcome to our service of
Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Advent Sunday 1st December 2024**

Gathering:

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our yearning hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Call to Worship:

**Because of You, Righteous God,
we begin our journey to Bethlehem,
trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.**

**For You, Child Jesus, we wait,
on this day of anticipation and hope,
in the days of doubt and worry.**

**With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,
those for whom this season is not one of joy;
those whose lives are empty of family and friends.**

Hymn:

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes, the pris'ners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with thy belovèd name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)
Based on Luke 4: 18-19)
CCLI Licence Number: 5935

First Sunday of Advent: Hope for all God's people:

*We light this candle for all God's people,
struggling to be bearers of hope
in a troubled world.*

**God, as we wait for your promise,
Give light, give hope.**

(Tune: Frère Jacques)

Each line of this song is repeated.

One red candle

Burning slow

Advent weeks of waiting

Three to go

Mary's waiting

Joseph too

Waiting for the baby

Coming soon

Confession: Please be seated

A time to bring to God those things we want to say sorry for and those things we need help with

Together we look at our hands...

Lord Jesus Christ,

you used your hands to heal;

to lift up; to bless;

to sow kindness and tenderness in desolate lives.

**Forgive us when we keep our hands at our sides
when we could be reaching out in love.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you used your hands to bear the burdens of others and to feed the hungry.

**Forgive us when we use our hands to take care of ourselves
without any thought for those who are hungry or overwhelmed
with adversity.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you used your hands to welcome and to include those who were
considered outcasts in the society of your time.

**Forgive us when we clench our fists and exclude people simply
because are different from us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Hear the good news:
there is forgiveness and steadfast love with God
who saves us from all our sins.

God has shown this love for us in that,
while we still were sinners,
Christ died for us.

You are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Collect:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

First Reading: *please sit for the reading*

Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16

At the end of the reading the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

2 I am the Lord that healeth thee.
I am the Lord that healeth thee.
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

3 In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

*Unknown, based on Psalm 46
CCLI Licence Number 5935*

Gospel Reading: *Please stand*

Luke 21: 25 - 36

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the reader says,

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith: Please stand

**We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—**

**who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us
to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,**

**when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.**

For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Intercessions:

The Peace:

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Hymn:

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee

O Israel.

3 O come, thou dayspring, come and
cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee

O Israel.

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee

O Israel.

2 O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee

O Israel.

4 O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee

O Israel.

*From the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th - 13th century)
trans. John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866)
CCLI Licence Number: 5935*

Preparation of the Table:

Heavenly Father,

as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,

bless also the gift of our hearts and minds

as we offer our lives in your service; for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

(sung)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power, God of might,

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables
with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

(sung)

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again and is alive with you
to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts
we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

(sung)

**Blessing and honour and glory and Power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: Please be seated

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.

Alleluia!

This living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei - Sung

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us your peace
Grant us your peace
Grant us your peace
Grant us your peace**

Bread and wine are shared.

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessings:

Notices:

Birthdays:

Hymn:

To be in your presence
to sit at your feet
when your love surrounds me
and makes me complete.

This is my desire, o Lord
this is my desire
this is my desire, o Lord
this is my desire.

To rest in your presence
not rushing away
to cherish each moment
here I would stay.

This is my desire, O Lord
this is my desire
this is my desire, O Lord
this is my desire.

this is my desire, o Lord
this is my desire
this is my desire, o Lord
this is my desire

Noel Richards
CCLI Licence Number: 5935

Sending:

We do not know when Christ will return,
**so we will wait, and in the waiting
we will share hope with everyone around us.**

We do not know what the coming days will bring,
**but we will be alert,
noticing all those who need the help we can provide.**

We do not know the opportunities we will be given,
**but we will keep our eyes open,
so we can welcome each person as if they are the Christ.**

Blessing:

Christ the Son 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
Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always
Amen

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.