Welcome to our Community Service
at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Sunday 29th November 2026
Advent Sunday: Waiting for Christ; Faith through the generations

Welcome:

Welcome all.
Today we begin our journey through Advent — a season of hope, expectation, and preparation. We gather not just to remember a story from long ago, but to open our hearts to God's presence here and now, a faith that weaves through many generations.

Bible Game icebreaker:

Song:

1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music
CCL Licence Number 5935

Table Questions: We love Community

Bible Reading: ***1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9*** ***(The Message version)***

3 May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our Father, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours.

4-6 Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives.

7-9 Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.

Youth Testimonies:

Video:

Table Questions: Faith through the generations

Song:

Come let us worship our King
Come let us bow at His feet
He has done great things
See what our Saviour has done
See how His love overcomes
He has done great things
He has done great things

You've been faithful through every storm
You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things
And I know You will do it again
For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"
You will do great things
God, You do great things

Hallelujah God, above it all
Hallelujah God, unshakable
Hallelujah You have done great things
Hallelujah God, above it all
Hallelujah God, unshakable
Hallelujah You have done great things
You've done great things

Oh, hero of heaven You conquer the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
Oh God, You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom awakened to life
Oh Jesus, our Saviour, Your name lifted high
Oh God, You have done great things

Phil Wickham
CCL Licence Number 5935

Youth Panel:

Lighting of the Advent Candle:
A candle burns, the first marker of our Advent journey.

As we set out,
may we travel hopefully.
As we set out,
God of journeys,
travel with us.

The Peace:
May Christ, the Prince of Peace, cast out fear and fill us with hope across all generations this Christmas Season. Peace be with you!

Nativity Prayers:

The Lord's Prayer:

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 forever. Amen.

Agape Meal:

Thank you, Father, for making us and our wonderful world.
Wherever we are,
we should always thank you,
through Jesus, your Son.

Jesus lived as one of us;
Jesus died on the cross for us;
Jesus is alive because you gave him life again;
Jesus is with us now as we prepare to break bread together.

Jesus asked us to remember him as we eat and drink together.

(Gluten Free Bread and Grape Juice will be distributed to the tables by our Young People)

After Sharing:

Generous God, bless all of us who are gathered here.
May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing, longing for that day when we will share together in your heavenly banquet.
Amen.

Song:

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen *Chorus*

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all *Chorus*

Hear Your people sing holy
To the King of kings holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever
You will always be holy
Holy forever

Jason David Ingram, Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Phil Wickham, Jenn Johnson.
CCL Licence Number 5935

Closing:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him.
May His light guide our steps as we enter Advent,
and may we carry His hope into every place we go.
Amen.