

Sunday 27 November 2022

Advent Sunday



Sermon © Lucie Reilly.

Liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 O come, O come Emmanuel [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The Welcome

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All 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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

When the Lord comes he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore, in the light of Christ,

let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.

All Amen.

The Gloria It is usual to omit the Gloria during Advent

The Collect for the Advent Sunday

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;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. *Romans 13:11-end*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

'Maranatha' is Aramaic for 'Come, Our Lord!'

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.' *Matthew 24:36-44*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Last week we wrapped up another church year, celebrating 'Christ the King' Sunday. Today we light our first advent candle, the candle that symbolises Hope and we enter the wonderful waiting season of Advent. During this season, the whole of Christianity is waiting and looking forward to celebrating Jesus' first coming, we will celebrate Christmas and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians we are looking forward to something else, Jesus' second coming—judgement day, and today we are going to look at the uncertainty caused by waiting and not knowing when the second coming will be and how that affects us here and now?

As we delve into our second reading today, Romans 13:11-14, the Apostle Paul calls us to recognise that the day is almost here, therefore the Christian way of life is the only way to live, and the only way we can live that life is through Christ. Earlier in the chapter Paul speaks about sanctification, and we are given instructions about Christian living, about how we supposed to live now that we have been saved from sin and hell through Jesus Christ and his life, death, and resurrection. Paul's answer to being a good citizen, is described in two ways—the first is to submit to governing authority and the second is to pay off your debts/taxes, pay what you owe. Next, Paul explains to us that, as Christians, the goal of it all is to

love one another, to love each other, to love others, in fact the entire law of God is really summed up with LOVE, because love will not harm our neighbour. So, the ten commandments are God's ten, clear explanations of what love actually looks like in our daily lives, the more we strive to live according to those commandments, the more we are going to practise that love to those around us.

As we get to verse 11 Paul says we do this, we live in this love, because we understand the present moment or at least this is one of the reasons. Scripture is very clear in saying that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead: judgement day could come at any time, so Paul tells us the hour has come, for us to wake up from our slumber. He is not assuming his listeners have fallen asleep. He is speaking figuratively about the natural sleep in which we can sometimes live our lives, sleepily living our lives like they don't matter, living as though our life is not ultimately heading towards judgement day. We don't know when Jesus will come again but, we do know what will happen on that day: the wicked will go to eternal punishment and all who are made Holy through the body and blood of Jesus will go to eternal life. Again, we don't know when that blessed day will be but it's certainly closer now than when we first became Christians. We need to do is live ready and be ready for that day to come whether it's in weeks' time, a year away or thousands to years down the line. Christ could come at any time, so we want to be ready and live with readiness for Christ, as Paul says, the Night is nearly over, the day is almost here.

Paul asks an important question, 'How does that impact our lives now?' His answer: 'Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light'. He is speaking here about living a Christian life, we need to live outside of dark deeds and actions, things that we know deep down are wrong yet, in our sin, we are drawn to them anyway. They are things people do in the dark, things done in secret or where no one is watching as we would be ashamed if anyone saw these actions or heard our dark thoughts. We don't want to live in darkness carrying the weight of this sin, especially with judgement day coming. Instead, we are called by Paul, to put on the armour of light, he uses a military term, we are at war people, it's a battle, a daily battle between, truth versus lies, good versus evil, right versus wrong, holiness versus sin... Heaven versus hell.

We can't keep sleeping and coasting along spiritually, we need and want to be prepared for when Jesus comes again; we should be prepared every moment and especially want to be prepared for this present war that we are fighting every single day. So, how do we fight this? Paul explains by saying, 'Let us behave decently as in the day, knowing about Jesus' return makes us want to live Christians lives as

christens should'. We don't just want to obey the ten commandments but to *embody* them, to act out 'doing onto other as we would have them do onto us' When we and other people look at our lives, we want to agree that it has been a life well lived, a life lived correctly, knowing judgment is coming.

Next, Paul contrasts that decent way of living in the day with several vices, ways of life that we know are wrong, yet, in our sin we are drawn to them anyway. Paul says, 'We should not indulge in carousing and drunkenness, nor in sexual immorality and debauchery, nor in dissension and jealousy.' The idea here is that we don't want to live our lives in that 'working for the weekend' mentality; rather, as Christians our service to our neighbour is not just stuff that we have to get through so that we can now focus on ourselves, we don't want to make 'me time' the goal of our lives. Instead, we want to see that every moment is about serving God and loving others as ourselves.

We have seen that the last day is coming, we have talked about the vices we want to avoid, we know we want to live Christians lives in the day light, the big question is how? How do we accomplish that? We can all fall into vices—or at least the mindset of vices at some point in our lives—so how do we go about staying away from the darkness and living in the light??

The answer ... Jesus. Pauls says, 'Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.' We put him on, just like we put on clothing, but we are to put him on *through faith*, faith that is given through the Gospel, the word and through baptism, faith that is strengthened through the gospel, the word and in the Lord's Supper. Paul points us to the Gospel message, which declares to us that Jesus was that perfect man, and he was perfect in our place. Never did he grumble about doing what would benefit others, he never served us on 'auto pilot' while daydreaming about the next opportunity for 'me time'. He kept himself perfectly under control and self-disciplined at every moment so that he might win salvation for the world. He doesn't hold your sins against you, he doesn't pursue the destruction that was done against him along time ago. He instead pursues our eternal good, no matter where we have been, no matter what sins we have committed, he never once said that you don't deserve the eternal life that he has won for you, and he is going to keep it for himself, no, instead he is ecstatic that you will spend eternity with him.

So, this Advent while we wait to celebrate the Jesus; first coming and await his second coming and our final judgment day ... let us cloth ourselves with Our Lord Jesus Christ and let us live in the light as if it was day.

Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with all your saints and angels

we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

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

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,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Maranatha (different song: please click on this link to hear the hymn)
'Maranatha' is Aramaic for 'Come, Our Lord!'

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Come thou long-expected Jesus ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give 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 so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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 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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All 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.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All 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.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

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.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work

**to your praise and glory.
Amen.**