



## CLOSING HYMN

### Blessing and Dismissal

*The presiding minister uses this or another blessing:*

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

**Amen.**

... And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

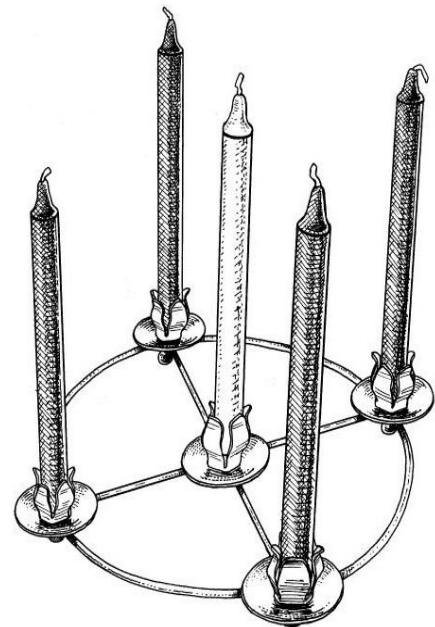
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



*After the service please cross the road to the hall for some coffee.*

# Holy Communion

## In the Season of Advent



**Parish of Westbourne**

**St John the Baptist &**

**Woodmancote Churches**

# YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOMED TO THIS SERVICE

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and elements of the service not only point us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of God's judgement.

*'Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty'*

(Charles Wesley, from the hymn *'Lo he comes with clouds descending'*)

Advent is more than a 'countdown to Christmas'! It has deep themes of its own, such as 'watchfulness'; and 'darkness and light'.

Candles are lit, not least on the Advent wreath. Services during this season often take place in the subdued light of semi-darkness.

The ancient prayer of the season is 'Maranatha' - 'come, Lord Jesus'.

*At various points in this service there will be suggestions as to whether you might stand or sit or kneel.*



*If it is not comfortable for you to follow these suggestions, please feel free to take whatever position is most suitable for yourself.*

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## Giving of Communion

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

*This prayer may be said:*

**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 from 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.**



*The people come forward to receive Communion.*

*When we are given the bread or the wine, we reply, Amen.*

*Those not wishing to receive bread and wine, please come forward for a blessing at the rail. It helps if you hold this booklet to show this is what you intend.*

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*



## Prayer after Communion

*The post communion prayer may be said.*

*This prayer may follow*

**Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God for ever. Amen.**

*[Richard Baxter]*

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the  
saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty 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.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

### 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 GATHERING

### The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you;  
**and also with you.**

*Words of introduction may be said.*

### OPENING HYMN

### Prayers of Penitence

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.'  
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as  
yourself.' There is no other commandment  
greater than these. On these two command-  
ments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

*The invitation to Confession*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness, and will  
disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess  
our sins.



**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole  
heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

### Kyrie

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

*The minister declares God's forgiveness*

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.     **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent  
prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more  
specific bidding.*

*The Collect is said and all respond: **Amen.***

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The next candle in the sequence is lit by a  
younger member of the congregation. We  
sing a verse & refrain from the Candle Hymn,  
or offer a prayer*

*[Week 1]*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

**Refrain**

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine  
through the darkness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

*[Week 2]*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. **Christ, be our light ...**

*[Week 3]*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. **Christ, be our light ...**

*[Week 4]*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. **Christ, be our light ..**

And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of 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.**



Lord, you are holy indeed,  
the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us  
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who,  
in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,  
saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for  
you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them saying:  
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.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on  
the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for  
the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his  
mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory, we cele-  
brate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving, we bring before you this  
bread and this cup and we thank you for  
counting us worthy to stand in your pres-  
ence and serve you.



## The Eucharistic Prayer

(Prayer B)

The Lord be with you *or* The Lord is here  
**and also with you. 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 thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks  
and praise, almighty God and everlasting  
Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.



*From the First Sunday of Advent until 16<sup>th</sup>  
December*

For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day when Christ our  
Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices  
with angels and archangels and with all the  
company of heaven to proclaim your glory,  
for ever 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.**

*From 17<sup>th</sup> December until Christmas Eve*

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore  
with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald and made  
him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us  
watching in prayer, our hearts filled with  
wonder and praise.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



### Old or New Testament Reading(s)

*At the end the reader will say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM or GRADUAL HYMN

### The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight, and all flesh shall  
see the salvation of God. *[cf Isaiah 40:3-5]*

**Alleluia.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



### The Sermon



### The Creed

*We affirm our faith in these or other words*

**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, was 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 of Intercession

*These responses may be used:*

A. Lord in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.



*And at the end,*

Merciful Father,

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

or

B. Maranatha.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*And at the end,*

May the Lord when he comes find us  
watching and waiting.

Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT



### The Peace

*The President introduces the Peace with  
these or other words:*

In the tender mercy of our God, the  
dayspring 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.

*Colossians 3.14,15*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

*A minister says:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace of Christ with others  
around us, saying 'Peace be with you'.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*During which bread and wine are brought  
forward and a collection may be taken*

### The Preparation of the Table



*The table is prepared and bread and wine  
are placed upon it. This prayer may be said:*

As the grain once scattered in the fields and  
the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table  
in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church  
soon be gathered together from the corners  
of the earth into your kingdom.  
Amen.