



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

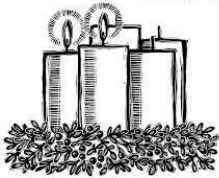
Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2023

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.

**Second Sunday
in Advent**



During Advent we wait for the coming of Christ, not only in the story of the Nativity, but in the here and now. We wait for the coming of God's Reign on earth, when peace and justice will be a reality. The concepts of Advent are often difficult as they speak of judgement and end times. Equally they talk of new life beyond our understanding. As we come to this Advent Season, let us not be afraid of our waiting, or of the uncertainty it may raise. Rather we are invited in our prayer and meditation to call out 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come!'

Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 140 – Come thou long expected Jesus

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President will introduce the service

As we begin the New Christian Year and the start of Advent we come before God with our prayers of 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.

Silence is kept

Almighty God,

long-suffering and of great goodness:

I confess to you,

and to these my brothers and sisters,

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.

We sing together.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

We are reminded of 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.**

*We turn to the Advent Wreath which helps us to mark our journey through Advent. There are five candles, one for each week. On this Second Sunday we remember **The Prophets** which gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was foretold.*

*As we turn to the Advent wreath, we sing the Second verse and chorus of **Hymn 452***

We light the first candle then pray:

People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you,
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore;
for your God comes to save.
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before the collect.

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word *(please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.*

This poem opens the second part of the book of Isaiah, which contains poems reflecting the impact of Persian expansion under

Cyrus the Great on the peoples living in exile after the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. The oracles of condemnation in Isaiah 1-39 reflect a period of destruction, while the poems in chapter 40-55 are filled with hope and joy because Cyrus allowed the exiles to return home.

Isaiah 40:1-11 provides a joyful refrain that introduces this unexpected reversal of fortunes. To be sure, Persia maintained colonial control over the peoples in the ancient Near East, but people were allowed to live in their native lands as long as they remained loyal to the Persian government. Isaiah attributes this foreign policy to the workings of their God, Yahweh, who now chooses to change the status of the displaced community.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

In this letter, the author (let's call him Peter though we know it is not Peter of the Twelve) encourages the community into faithful living.

This text, like many of the Advent texts, invites us into a space of exploration: What does it mean to wait, to live in hope, to live in faith (for isn't living in faith always living in hope)? And asks: Does this waiting have any consequences for the community?

The waiting is obviously not defined as simply preparing for Christmas! Nor is it an anachronistic waiting (waiting for Jesus' birth that has already taken place). These verses of 2 Peter 3 allow us to sit in God's space and time. The community of faith is waiting for God's judgment not in fear but with great desire. In fact, the community is constituted as a community of waiting, of yearning, in faithfulness. This hope characterizes the Christian community as witness to God's mercy in the world.

A reading from the second letter of Peter

(2 Peter 3:8-15a)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these

things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We sing our **Gradual Hymn 491 – Love divine all love excelling** during which the Gospel is processed – please stand.

Mark's Gospel begins with a jarring proclamation that this is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This sets the stage for the entirety of Mark's Gospel, the shortest of the four and the most fast-paced, with its short sentences, action verbs, and a narrative that focuses more on what Jesus says than what he does. After a quick orientation with a scripture from Isaiah, John "appears" in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. There is no birth narrative, no poetic pericope describing Jesus' heavenly origins, just a quick dive into the work of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we might learn from the urgency of this text. We may not know exactly what we are preparing for, but whatever it is, it is for RIGHT NOW! There is no time to waste in this endeavour. And the people in the text weren't wasting much time making their way to John either. Something was beginning.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a

baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene 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,
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.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.
A member of the congregation will lead these*

After the biddings we pray

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers

Merciful Father,

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament (please stand)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in
heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those around us in a way we are
comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.*

*We sing Hymn **451 – Long ago, prophets knew** during which a
collection is taken.*

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glorify to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died: Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

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

*We receive communion, during which we listen to Sam play. All who would normally receive are welcome to, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip)).** You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. At the end of communion the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:*

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We listen to notices about our community life.

We receive God's blessing for the week ahead.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ the Sun 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 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 the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

*We join in our **final hymn 307 – Hills of the north rejoice** during which the clergy depart.*

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Laurence's Larder

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In October we raised £1866. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!



Advent, like Lent, is a time for personal and corporate reflection on how we live our faith. In the case of Advent we are in a season of waiting. Advent waiting is not however simply about the birth of Jesus. Our Advent season waiting is also thinking ahead to Christ's future coming.

Wreath Making

Thank you to everyone who helped with Wreath making yesterday – a special thank you to Rhona for all her hard work!!!

Opportunities During Advent 2023

Monday Lunchtimes during Advent

On Monday 11th and 18th December at 12noon we will be offering an Advent reflection with Mass in the Church. There will be a weekly theme using music, images and silence.

Carols by Candlelight

with Queen's Park Singers—Sunday 17th December at 4pm
followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

Christmas Parties – Friday 15th December

9.30am – 11.30 My Move Christmas Party with Santa

2pm – 4pm A Tea and Chat Christmas

6pm –9pm Vicar's Christmas Drinks in the Rotunda . You are welcome to pop in for a drink or stay for the whole time. Come as you are able. A £5 donation towards cost of drinks would be welcome.



For our prayers— Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently including Janet, and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Cecil Nymn, Fredrick Slade, Lionel Patrick Salmon and Nora Sturges.

Services during the week 10th December 2023

Monday	12noon Advent Reflection with Mass
Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
Friday 15th	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel 9.30am My Move play group 2pm Tea and Chat 6pm Vicar's Christmas Drink (rotunda)
Sunday 17th <i>Advent 3</i>	9am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom 10am Sung Mass with Sunday School 4pm Carols by Candlelight

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