



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Advent Sunday **3rd 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.



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 449 – Lo, he comes with clouds descending

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. The first purple candle for Advent Sunday recalls the **Patriarchs** of our faith. In some traditions it is also the candle of **Hope**.*

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

We light the first candle then pray:

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.**

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

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. **Amen**

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

Isaiah 64:1-3 depicts God as the one who “tears open the heavens” and causes wildfire to sweep through brush. This is not like the images of wildfire or bushfires we have seen in recent times, but rather comes from a different context.

Isaiah 64 arises from a very different historical context, however. The material in the final eleven chapters of the book seem to reflect challenges that the Israelites faced during the Persian period. Some Israelites displaced by Babylonian aggression had now returned to Jerusalem under Persian sponsorship. The Israelites who had not been displaced clashed with this immigrating group over questions of status, social standing, and, ultimately, political and religious authority. Contemporary readers of this material should understand it in the context of overriding colonial power.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 64:1-9)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

The consumerist culture in which we exist tends to think of Advent as pre-Christmas, most notably with commercial Advent calendars with 24 gifts leading to Christmas. Certainly, preparing for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas is a significant part of the season, but one look at the lectionary for the first half of this season gives the Latin meaning of Advent as “coming” or “arrival” another perspective.

While the Hebrew Bible and Gospel texts in the Revised Common Lectionary are more explicit on the multiple forms of coming—in the manger, among the poor, again at the final consummation of the world—the assigned epistle readings during this season have a less obvious thematic connection.

On this First Sunday of Advent, the assigned second reading places us literally at the beginning, with the introduction of one of Paul’s early congregational letters. As a skilled rhetorician, Paul follows the rules of Greco-Roman letter-writing in this text. The verses preceding this lection are simple, noting the senders and receivers of this letter. After the standard salutation, Paul continues by greeting the congregation and giving thanks to God for the work they are doing.

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians
(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We sing our **Gradual Hymn 699 – The Advent of our king** during which the Gospel is processed – please stand.

The inclusion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Mark 13:24-37)

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 535 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel 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.

Glory 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 the Piano Guys, O Come, O Come! 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

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.**

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 11 – All for Jesus** 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!

GARAGE SALE – Sunday 3rd December from 11am – 2pm. We will be trying to get rid of items from Queens Park Day, and clear this for Christmas. Volunteers needed. Also invite people to come and buy!



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.

So the season is sombre, in purple and with fasting and repentance—a reminder that as Jesus came to us once, so just as surely will come again. Advent begins this year on **Sunday 3rd November**. Please see the resources to support our devotion at the back of church today!

Opportunities During Advent 2023

Monday Lunchtimes during Advent

On Monday 4th, 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!

Wreath Making

This annual creative workshop will take place on **Saturday 9th December -10am until 1pm**. Come at 10am to make your own Christmas wreath or table centre piece. All materials will be provided but participants will be asked to buy their wreath.

Vicar's Christmas Party

6pm –9pm in the Rotunda on **Friday 15th December**. 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 Phyllis Jeffery, Irene Kane, Anthony Judge, Catherine Edmonds, Ethel Beange and Robin Ashton.

Services during the week 3rd December 2023

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| Monday | 12noon Advent Reflection with Mass |
| Tuesday | 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom |
| Thursday | 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel |
| Friday 8th | 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel 9.30am My Move play group 2pm Tea and Chat |
| Sunday 10th <i>Advent 2</i> | 9am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom 10am Sung Mass with Sunday School |

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