

# WORSHIP - 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT, 14 NOV 2020

*Once again our church buildings are closed. I can be angry - when Garden Centres are allowed to open, why can't we? Or I can accept that we are where we are. I am safer worshipping at home. My friends are not putting themselves at risk by gathering together. God is everywhere - so I rest in his love. JACK, St Edmund's Junior Church, are meeting by zoom - it's their 6th anniversary today. Through lockdown they, and their families, have continued to meet. We are all church together, so we worship.*

## Lighting of the Candle

[https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Pentecost.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Pentecost.htm)

We light a candle, and enjoy the flickering light,  
the fragrance and warmth it creates.  
But without the spark that ignites, there will be no flame.  
Without the wax, the source of power, the wick will not burn.  
Without the flame, there will be no fragrance, no warmth, no light.  
And so with us, Lord.  
You are the catalyst that ignites us, and the fuel that sustains us.  
You fill us with your fragrance as you enter our lives.  
You empower us to carry your flame in our hearts,  
to be the fragrance, warmth, and light of your love, in this dark world.  
Bless us as we come to worship you.



**Music** - God be in my head, *John Rutter* - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyLIN\\_xXFhs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyLIN_xXFhs)  
*I don't know the name of this choir, nor where they are singing - but they sing beautifully*

## Welcome

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

**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.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.  
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.

**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 us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Bible readings - 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 and Matthew 25.14-30

*The text for these are on the blue sheet (though this week it seems to be black), which you can download from the front page of the website - "Bible readings and prayers 15 November 2020"*

**Hymn** - *we can't sing at church, but you might like to sing/enjoy*

Immortal, invisible - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spE-BE23qxA>

*Songs of Praise congregation from Halifax Minster. I have never been inside Halifax Minster. When I visited in 2016 the church was closed for building work, and I have never been back. Halifax has a stunning railway station, and Quality Street chocolates are made in the town. I'll have a trip to Halifax when all this is over.*

**Address** - *there are sermons from me and Clive on the front page of the website*

**The Nicene Creed** - *we affirm our faith, and the faith of the whole church (hence 'we' not 'I')*

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.

## Prayers of Intercession

*I thought I would search "Prayers for second Sunday before Advent" to see if I could find some I could "borrow" and adapt. These are written by the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy! They say there is no copyright on communication with God, and I am welcome to use them. We can imagine ourselves in Spain as we pray.*



Loving God, we offer our prayers now for all people and their situations; for lives that are going through upheaval or distress; for circumstances which only you can change.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for hostages and their families and loved ones from whom they are separated.

We give thanks for our churches in Derby, and for the Chaplaincy of the Costa Blanca. May we point the way to God's Kingdom in our community and welcome all who are seeking through our doors.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for peace in the world, for understanding between nations, religions and factions and for an end to old scores which remain unsettled. We pray for the peoples of the Middle East and for Christian, Muslim and Jew, that they may live alongside one another in mutual respect and harmony. We pray too for fair shares and fair trade and that the talents of the workers of the world are fairly rewarded.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the United States of America and we ask that you would give the New President-Elect wisdom beyond his own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate especially at this difficult time of the ongoing Pandemic. In Britain we pray for the Prime Minister and his government, for good advice, for fairness and justice. For strength to move forward, and vision for a better future.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

Father God, we thank you for the gifts, talents and abilities you have given each of us praying that a deeper understanding of those talents can be used and shared within our churches, the Chaplaincy and the community. Set us free from the fear that makes us inward looking. Give us a renewed generosity with our time, our talents and our treasure. Give us a renewed concern for those who are struggling in our congregations and our communities. Give us a renewed vision of what it is for us to be your church, in this place, at this time. We pray for our children's work, giving thanks for six years of JACK, and for our PCCs as they meet virtually and by email this week. Bless and guide us we ask.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

Forgiving God, send your healing forgiveness to all who are suffering feelings of guilt, shame or regret. Help to mend broken relationships. Be with all who feel that, through advancing years or failing health, they cannot enjoy life as it used to be. May those who are learning to live a new pattern of life feel that you are walking beside them. We especially pray for the sick and suffering in our Chaplaincy/our Churches and give you thanks for those who are on the road to recovery. Merciful God, we remember those who have died and for those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places.

**Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Peace** - even if you are physically alone, remember you are part of God's Church across the world. We can share the peace with a phone call later today - who are you going to phone?

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn** - O God our help in ages past - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3OpCuwBSE4>

*I was surprised to see that this hymn was suggested for today, as (in normal times) we would have sung it last week. The benefit of youtube is that we can return to the Cenotaph with lots of people, and sing it again.*

*Putting this service together, I have now thought "why am I producing a liturgy for Holy Communion when we cannot celebrate communion in either of our churches?" (I could go and celebrate it myself, or sneak Julie in with a camera, but that doesn't seem right - I want to celebrate it with you. Do I go back and change this service to give you the text of Morning Prayer? No - I have got this far, so I'll print the Eucharistic Prayer. I quite understand if you prefer not to use it until we can share Communion together. I can't tell you that you are welcome to use this prayer and have some of your own bread and wine, as that introduces all sort of legal and theological complications, but I'm sure God has no problems if that's what you want to do.*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
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.**

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:

**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: **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 St Matthew, St Edmund and 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. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father,**  
**who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*Let's go to the choir of an Oxford College (Somerville) singing in St Paul's Cathedral for some music.*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cej\\_jo9bgGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cej_jo9bgGU)

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:  
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

*Words: Psalm 34.8*

*Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872– 1958*

*This motet was composed for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 2 June 1953*

**Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:**  
**bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

**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.**

### **The Blessing**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humanity, peace and concord;  
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn** - Be thou my vision - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AdBkJurR4&t=15s>

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord; **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Final music** - *On a miserable day, I thought some brass band music might cheer us up.*

*Dobcross Band play Barnard Castle by Goff Richards.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuNjgm15zvU>

Peter Barham, 14 November 2020