

**Morning Prayer (BCP) for The First Sunday of Advent:  
Sunday 29 November 2020**

*Welcome to this first United Service of the (soon-to-be) United Benefice of Penshurst, Fordcombe and The Chiddingstone Churches.*

*Every 5th Sunday, which happens four times a year, we will hold a United Service, going round each of the four churches in turn, and today we are in St John's at Penshurst.*

*Our worship today is a service of Morning Prayer, taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.*

*Hymn*

- 1      Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
        once for favoured sinners slain;  
        thousand thousand saints attending  
        swell the triumph of his train:  
        Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
        God appears on earth to reign.
  
- 2      Every eye shall now behold him  
        robed in dreadful majesty;  
        those who set at naught and sold him,  
        pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
        deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
        shall the true Messiah see.
  
- 3      Those dear tokens of his passion  
        still his dazzling body bears;  
        cause of endless exultation  
        to his ransomed worshippers:  
        with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
        gaze we on those glorious scars.
  
- 4      Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
        high on thine eternal throne;  
        Saviour, take the power and glory,  
        claim the kingdom for thine own:  
        O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly,  
        Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John Cennick (1718-1755)*

*Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

*Joel 2:13*

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

**Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

*Venite, Exultemus Domino*

*Psalms 95:1-7*

**O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:**

**and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.**

**The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.**

**O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.**

**Amen.**

*We say Psalm 25 antiphonally by part verse: when the word 'learn' comes, modern English would be 'teach'.*

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee:

**O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.**

For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed:

**but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.**

Shew me thy ways, O Lord:

**and teach me thy paths.**

Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me:

**for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.**

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies:

**and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.**

○ remember not the sins and offences of my youth:  
**but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.**

Gracious and righteous is the Lord:  
**therefore will he teach sinners in the way.**

Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement:  
**and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.**

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth:  
**unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

For thy Name's sake, O Lord:  
**be merciful unto my sin, for it is great.**

What man is he that feareth the Lord:  
**him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.**

His soul shall dwell at ease:  
**and his seed shall inherit the land.**

The secret of the Lord is among them that fear him:  
**and he will shew them his covenant.**

Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord:  
**for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.**

Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me:  
**for I am desolate and in misery.**

The sorrows of my heart are enlarged:  
**○ bring thou me out of my troubles.**

Look upon my adversity and misery:  
**and forgive me all my sin.**

Consider mine enemies, how many they are:  
**and they bear a tyrannous hate against me.**

○ keep my soul, and deliver me:  
**let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in thee.**

Let perfectness and righteous dealing wait upon me:  
**for my hope hath been in thee.**

Deliver Israel, O God:  
**out of all his troubles.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.  
Amen.**

*The Old Testament reading: Isaiah 2:1-5*

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel: Luke 12:35-48*

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.  
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

○ Lord, save the Queen.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

○ Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, ○ God.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*The Collect for The First Sunday of Advent*

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

*The Second Collect, for Peace*

○ God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect, for Grace*

**○ Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Prayers*

*Response*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*Ending with: A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, ○ Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Hymn*

I 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.

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

- 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.

*Chorus*

- 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.

*Chorus*

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stones.

*Chorus*

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Chorus*

*Bernadette Farrell (born 1957)*

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*The Sermon*

*Hymn*

- 1 Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his People's burden,  
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
he will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

3 Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected,

*Chorus*

4 Journey ends! Where afar  
Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes!  
Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!*

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)  
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*The Grace*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*2 Corinthians 13*

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