



The Parish of Gainsborough and Morton

An Order of Service

Welcome to our service for Advent

The Gathering

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you

So let us sing our first hymn "O come, O Come Emmanuel"

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain
- 3 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Refrain

5 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

Lighting the Advent Candle

Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)

Prayer of Preparation

Together we pray...
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.

Prayer of Penitence

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.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour
and let your anger cease from us
Lord have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

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.

So let us Pray

The Collect is said, and all respond.

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Liturgy of the Word
Reading

We sit for the readings. This will include readings from the Bible and a time to reflect on what they might mean for us in our daily lives.

At the end of the reading, the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord

The response is

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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 Matthew

The response is

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord

The response is

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

So let us say together The 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel for our time of prayer

The following response is used

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And may end with:

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

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.

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

Prayer at the preparation of the table

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.

The Lord is here.

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.

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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 celebrate 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 presence and serve you.
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.

So let us sit or kneel as we say together the prayer that our saviour taught us

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, (*Pause*)
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. (*Pause*)
Give us today our daily bread. (*Pause*)
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. (*Pause*)
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. (*Pause*)
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. (*Pause*)
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.

As I receive the bread and wine, can I invite to say the following prayer

A Prayer for communion in separation

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giver and good physician,
here you meet me in our need.

In a world marred by corruption and marked by death,
draw me into true life.

By your selfless sacrifice,
help me to live for others and not myself.

May I, who cannot now receive you sacramentally,
embrace you more fully in my heart, mind and soul.

Help me unite myself to you in spirit,
so that I may be drawn closer to those from whom I am isolated in body. Through
sharing your life given up in death for us all, may we grow together in love into a
richer and more profound communion of life.

Amen

The Post Communion Prayer is said

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.

Our final hymn "Longing for light, we wait in darkness"

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.
*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 Dismissal

The priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of the God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with always.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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