

The Parish of Curdworth, Middleton and Wishaw



**Holy Communion
during Advent**

**Maranatha
Come, Lord Jesus!**

The Gathering

Please stand for the entry of the ministers

Entrance Hymn

The Greeting

President
All

We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

Please sit

Prayer of Preparation

Leader
All

O Lord, we call to you: come to us quickly.
Hear us when we cry to you.

cf Psalm 141.1,2

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Turn to page 14

Invitation to confession

Leader

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So, let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

Confession

Leader

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

All

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

President

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in
the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The Collect

First Reading

At the end of the reading

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Leader

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to....

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Please sit after the preacher has prayed

Leader Let us stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

Please stand we either sing the creed to the tune Hyfrydol or say it

All **We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit

Leader

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
We pray for ...

Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great
glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with St Michael and all
your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in
your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your
kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and
reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever
and ever.

Amen.

The Peace
Please stand

President

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Blessed is the King 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.

All

Leader

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A sign of peace may be exchanged

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**

President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**
You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.
You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.
Again and again you drew us into your covenant of
grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by
your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy
and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom
on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and singing:

All **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.

President Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

All **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

President Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

All **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

President On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

All **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

President 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.

All **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

President Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on
the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting
from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right
hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

President As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

All **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

President Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

All **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

President Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with N and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in 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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in whichever version or language you prefer

Leader As we look for the coming of the kingdom, so we pray

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

**President
All**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

President

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Agnus Dei

The president and ministers receive communion during the Agnus Dei

All

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Prayer before communion (From the Iona community)

President While we await the Messiah's coming, each of us now remembers why we come to this table where Heaven and Earth meet.

All I come, not because I am strong, but because I am weak.
I come, not because I have the right to come, but because I need mercy and help.
I come, because I love the Lord a little and I would like to love him more.
I come, not because I am worthy to approach him, but because he died for sinners.
I come, because he loves me and gave himself for me.

President So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; or not at all; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The people receive communion.

All who are baptised are invited to receive communion, or if it is your practice to do so in your own church. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please hold this book.

Hymn or Anthem

Post Communion Prayer

The post communion prayer for the day may be used

President And now we give you thanks
because in his coming the day of our deliverance has
dawned; and through him you will make all things new,
as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world.

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us and blessing 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.

Blessing

President 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 of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Notices

Including Birthdays, Banns and other general notices

The Dismissal

Final Hymn

Please stand

Leader Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'
All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
All **Amen.**

The ministers and people depart.

Please feel free to join us after the service in some of our churches for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat.

If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to us.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn (Gaudete Sunday, taken from the first word of the introit to the Mass for this Sunday meaning rejoice). The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white one on Christmas Day.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle but traditionally the candles represent.

Advent 1	The Patriarchs (Purple Candle)
Advent 2	The Prophets (Purple Candle)
Advent 3	John the Baptist (Pink/Rose Candle)
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary (Purple Candle)
Christmas Day	The Christ (White Candle)

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

Usually, the light for the candles will be taken from the Paschal Candle this symbolises that all the light coming into the world is as result of Jesus Resurrection on Easter Day and links the two great festivals together. This year we have to imagine the symbolism of Waiting and longing for the coming of the Messiah

The art is designed to challenge you and make you think about each candle on the Advent Wreath.

Leader

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.

All

**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.**

We light the first candle



The symbolic fresco of patriarchs Moses, Joseph, Abraham and Joshua in church Chiesa di San Dalmazzo by Enrico Reffo and Luigi Guglielmino (1916)

Leader

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.

All

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

We light two of the candles



Revelation of Jeremiah, graphic collage from engraving of Nazarene School, published in The Holy Bible, St.Vojtech Publishing, Trnava, Slovakia, 1937.

Leader

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.
God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways.
You are God's children.

All

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

We light the first three candles



Jesus baptised by John the Baptist. Digital Art by rudall30

Leader

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!

All

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus



Hennie Niemann Jnr (b 1972), African Madonna – 2006, Oil on canvas

Leader

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All

All God's people *shout*:
Amen!

Angels dance
and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people *shout*:
Amen!

One with us,
yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people *shout*:
Amen!

People of God: shout sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

All the candles on the advent wreath are lit



“The Nativity” by He Qi (Ho Chee) who was born in China and discovered art during the Cultural Revolution. He works in Chinese ink and Japanese gouache on a rice-paper like material and lives in the USA



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