

St Peter's Church Darwen

The First Sunday of Advent

Hymn

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon'.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The lighting of the Advent Candle

A Prayer is said as the Advent Candle is lit:

A candle on our Advent Wreath will be lit today.

Each candle reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ:

Advent 1: Patriarchs and Matriarchs

Advent 2: The Prophets

Advent 3: John the Baptist

Advent 4: The Virgin Mary

Christmas Day: The Christ.

Each week we say a special prayer which reminds us of their importance in our preparation for the coming of the Christ. The prayer can be found on the notice sheet.

Invitation to 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.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out our offences. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned and done what is evil in
your sight. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean; wash us and we
shall be whiter than snow.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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.

All Amen.

The Collect

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.

Response: All - Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first two readings

First Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 13.11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung.

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is the King who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, o Lord

Matthew 24.36-44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

We say together in faith

**All Holy, holy, holy Is the Lord God almighty
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father
who created all things:

**All for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

**All for with his blood,
 he purchased us from God,
 from every tribe and language,
 from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
 Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
 Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used

 Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

At the end:

**All 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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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
All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*(Those in church will wave to each other and we say the words,
'Peace be with you')*

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The gifts of the people may be collected.*

The president takes the bread and wine saying,

As this bread was scattered and then gathered
and made one, so may your Church be gathered
into your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine,

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The President praises God for his mighty acts, and all respond:

**All Holy, holy, holy, 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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper.

Great is the mystery of Christ
All Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, 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 Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung

**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.**

Giving of Communion

During the distribution hymns may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

The Post communion is said.

Post Communion:

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.

All Amen.

**All 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 Dismissal

Notices may be given. A hymn may be sung.

Blessing

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 the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always,

All Amen

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon'.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching us watching
and waiting.

All Amen.

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