

St Peter's Church Darwen

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hymn

The Greeting and Welcome

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

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 in Advent we say a special prayer which reminds us of their importance in our preparation for the coming of the Christ.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Invitation to confession

All **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.**

The Prayer of Penitence

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the piece of
your kingdom. Lord have mercy:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought and word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

The 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.

All Amen.

The Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,

‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as
heaven.’

But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

'For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

The Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

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

Giving of Communion

During the distribution hymns may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

The Post Communion is said.

Post Communion:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
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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