



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 14th December 2025



Please pray:

For Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

For the retired clergy and their spouses/partners. Also for
Clergy widows/widowers.

For those who work to bring peace around the world.

For neighbours in Shirley Road.

For Elias, Pauline Grimstone, Veronica Holden, Diane Howe, Paul
Thompson, Trevor, Robin, Rols Ham-Riche, Sarah, Peter, Michael Miller,
Jess.

Recently Departed: Malcolm Kemp

Anniversaries of death: Ron Walpole, Joyce Wing

Welcome to The Church of the Good Shepherd. This sheet has everything you need to follow what is going on. The writing in the red italics gives instructions. The text in normal type will be spoken by a priest, reader or other member of the congregation. We all join in with the bold type.

Please stand when the bell rings and the altar party enters.

Processional Hymn
NEH 12

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**
- 2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.**
- 4 Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Tr John Chandler (1808-76)*

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The priest introduces the celebration. We say the Prayer of Preparation.

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 Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Penitential Rite

The priest invites us to call to mind our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

The Kyries

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

NEH 451

We remain standing for the Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word
First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 146 vv 4-10 (Chant: Nares)

- 4 Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help *
and whose hope is in the Lord his God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is *
who keepeth his promise for ever.
- 6 Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong *
who feedeth the hungry.
- 7 The Lord looseth men out of prison *
the Lord giveth sight to the blind.
- 8 The Lord helpeth them that are fallen *
the Lord careth for the righteous.
- 9 The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and
widow *
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.
- 10 The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore *
and throughout all generations.

**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.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of James.

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Creed

Please stand for 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.

The Intercessions

In the intercessions, we make this or another response:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

The Peace

Please remain standing as the celebrant introduces the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the Offertory Hymn, the Gifts of Bread and Wine are presented by the people. A collection is taken. There is also a Card machine at the back of the church. You are welcome to use it at the end of the service if you would like to make any donation.

Offertory Hymn

m/s

- 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 shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone
Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today
- 3 Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come
Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today

Bernadette Farrell (b 1957)

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Invitation to Prayer is said:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

The priest then prays the Prayer over the Gifts to which we respond:

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and we sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

...as without end we acclaim:

**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,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.**

NEH 451

The priest prays the prayer of consecration, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Prayer continues, leading into the doxology, which ends

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated host:

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.

We sing the Agnus Dei:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

NEH 451

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity, and are used to receiving communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Otherwise, you may like to come forward for a blessing. Please bring this sheet with you to indicate that you would like a blessing.

People, look East, Besancon carol, arr Malcolm Archer

Communion Hymn

NEH 500

- 1 Thy kingdom come on bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that kingdom's day.**
- 2 But the slow watches of the night
Not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
The silent stars are strong.**
- 3 And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near:**
- 4 The day in whose clear-shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed;**
- 5 When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad:
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.**

Frederick Hosmer (1840-1929)

Post Communion

We stand as the priest prays:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

We pray together:

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 Notices

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The priest asks God's blessing on us:

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

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn
NEH 443

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

3 His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

4 He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Organ Voluntary

Postlude on Winchester New, Christopher Tambling

THIS WEEK

Monday 15 th	
10.15am (Zoom opens 9.45am)	Bible Study
Tuesday 16 th	
2pm - 4pm	Tea at the Good Shepherd
Wednesday 17 th <i>O Sapientia</i>	
11.00am	Carol Singing at Chatsworth
Thursday 18 th <i>O Adonai</i>	
10.30am	The Eucharist
Sunday 21 st The Fourth Sunday of Advent	
8.00am 10.15am 6.00pm	The Eucharist Parish Eucharist Carol Service

NOTICES

Mthr Alice is covering at St Mary's, Kemp Town this morning.

This evening at 5pm is our **Light up a Life** service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

We will be **carol singing** at Chatsworth this Wednesday, 17th December at 11am.

Our **Carol Service** is on Sunday 21st December at 6pm.

Please spread the word about our **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve at 6pm.

If you would like a copy of a **Christmas Quiz** to do with friends and family (or on your own!) over Christmas they are £2 each for a paper or digital copy. Money raised is for church funds.

Malcolm Kemp will be received into St Paul's, West Street on Tuesday 13th January at 4.30pm. His Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 14th January at 11.30am.

Save the date for a **Burns Night Supper** on Saturday 24th January at 6.30pm.

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