

HOLY TRINITY HEATH TOWN

Sunday 14th December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am Holy Communion Theme: "Come, Jesus, be with us."

Presiding: Richard Merrick Preaching: Gill Brackett

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & GREETING

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Into our world today, as into the stable.

We welcome you, come Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, the powerful, the weary, the wise.

We welcome you, come Lord Jesus.

Into our lives, our loves and our longings.

We welcome you, come Lord Jesus.

This is the good news: Christ is coming and blessed are those who are ready to welcome him.

We welcome you, come quickly, Lord.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

HYMN/SONG

We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell

That we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;

He sends His Spirit on His Church

To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King:

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

This gospel message we proclaim:

We sing His glory, tell His worth.

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

As we light our advent candles

Light of the world, shine on us.

As we prepare for Christmas time

Light of the world, shine on us.

The first candle is lit

In your Church, as we seek your face,

Light of the world, shine in us.

As we walk together seeking unity in you,

Light of the world, shine in us.

The second candle is lit

In this world of pain and darkness,

Light of the world, shine through us.

To all the people who don't know you,

Light of the world, shine through us.

The third candle is lit

Jesus you are coming again,

Light of the world, light the way.

In our worship here today,

Light of the world, light the way.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory

for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

HYMN/SONG

Name of all majesty,
Fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
By angels adored;
Power and authority,
Splendour and dignity,
Bow to His mastery –
Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
Love of the Father
On sinners outpoured;
See now what God has done,
Sending His only Son,
Christ the beloved One –
Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary,
Costliest victory,
Darkness defeated
And Eden restored;
Born as a man to die,
Nailed to a cross on high,
Cold in the grave to lie –
Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty,
Light, immortality,
Life everlasting
And heaven assured;
So with the ransomed, we
Praise Him eternally,
Christ in His majesty –

Jesus is Lord!

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.

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all *your* sins, that *you* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT OR EPISTLE: Isaiah 35:1-10

At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN/SONG

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee

.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever;
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By Thine own sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

When the reading is announced

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the end.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CREED /AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the
Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus
Christ.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried; he descended to the
dead. On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the
right hand of the Father, and He will
come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy
Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy
Catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

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

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,
And also with you.

NOTICES

OFFERTORY HYMN/SONG

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.

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save
us.

Make us Your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for

others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us Your building, sheltering
others,

Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
Making Your kingdom come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with
them our lives, to be used in your service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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, it is our duty and our
joy, at all times and in all places to give
you thanks and praise, holy Father,
heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because
when he humbled himself to come among
us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan
you formed long ago and opened for us
the way of salvation.

So now we watch for the day, knowing
that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in
glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and
with all the company of heaven, we
proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ, and as we follow his example and
obey his command, grant that by the
power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of
bread and wine may be to us his body and
his blood; 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.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

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.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we
remember his offering of himself made
once for all upon the cross; we proclaim
his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension; we look for the coming of your
kingdom, and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son
our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in
glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and
as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the
presence of your divine majesty, renew us
by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who
stand before you in earth and heaven, we
worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of
everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray;

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on
us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us
peace.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of
our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for
you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by
faith with thanksgiving.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to
redeem the world and will send him again
to be our judge: give us grace so to
imitate him in the humility and purity of
his first coming that, when he comes
again, we may be ready to greet him with
joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and
praise that when we were still far off you
met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of
glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his
risen life; we who drink his cup bring life
to others; we whom the Spirit lights give
light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set
before us, so we and all your children
shall be free, and the whole earth live to
praise your name; through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

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.
Amen.

HYMN/SONG

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
My great Redeemer's praise!
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain,
The Lamb of God was slain;
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

He speaks and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name.

Go in the peace and light of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.