



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 7th December 2025



Please pray:

For The Church of Bangladesh.

For the General Synod Representatives.

For those who work to bring peace around the world.

For neighbours in Old Shoreham Road.

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

Recently Departed: Sarah Clowes, Malcolm Kemp

Anniversaries of death: Kathleen Stevens, Iris Dawes, Jacynth Sanders.

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 5

- 1 Hark! A herald voice is calling:
‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say;
‘Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!’**
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;**
- 4 So when next he comes in glory,
And earth’s final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.**
- 5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

E Caswall (1814-1878)

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.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.

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, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word
First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72 vv 1-7, 18-19 (Chant: Norris)

- 1 Give the King thy judgements, O God *
and thy righteousness unto the King's son.
 - 2 Then shall he judge thy people according unto right *
and defend the poor.
 - 3 The mountains also shall bring peace *
and the little hills righteousness unto the people.
 - 4 He shall keep the simple folk by their right *
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong doer.
 - 5 They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth *
f rom one generation to another.
 - 6 He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool *
even as the drops that water the earth.
 - 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish *
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
 - 18 Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel *
which only doeth wondrous things ;
 - 19 And blessed be the Name of his Majesty for ever *
and all the earth shall be filled with his Majesty. Amen, Amen.
- 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 Paul to the Romans.

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm

the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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!

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

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 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the

wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

NEH 170 i)

**1 Lo, in the wilderness a voice
‘Make straight the way’ is crying:
When men are turning from the light,
And hope and love seem dying,
The prophet comes to make us clean:
‘There standeth one you have not seen,
Whose voice you are denying.’**

**2 God give us grace to hearken now
To those who come to warn us,
Give sight and strength, that we may kill
The vices that have torn us,
Lest love professed should disappear
In creeds of hate, contempt, and fear,
That crush and overturn us.**

**3 When from the vineyard cruel men
Cast out the heavenly powers
And Christendom denies its Lord,
The world in ruin cowers.
Now come, O God, in thy great might!
Unchanged, unchanging is thy right,
Unswayed thy justice towers.**

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

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.

Choir

On Jordan's bank, arr Malcolm Archer

Communion Hymn NEH 15

- 1 The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**
- 2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.**
- 3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.**

**4 The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.**

**5 For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.**

John Milton (1608-74)

Post Communion

We stand as the priest prays:

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.

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 7

- 1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He bring salvation from above.
- 2 Isles of the Southern sea,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a new world's birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.
- 3 Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.
- 4 Shores of the utmost west,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o're the darkest night.

**5 Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.**

Editors, based on C. E. Oakley (1832-65)

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia on Veni, veni Emmanuel, Cuthbert Harris

THIS WEEK

Monday 8 th <i>The Immaculate Conception</i>	
10.15am (Zoom opens 9.45am)	Bible Study
Wednesday 10 th	
11.00am	Carol Singing at Chartwell
Thursday 11 th	
10.30am	The Eucharist
Saturday 13 th <i>St Lucy</i>	
10am - 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 14 th The Third Sunday of Advent	
8.00am 10.15am 10am - 4pm 5.00pm	The Eucharist Parish Eucharist Christmas Tree Festival Light up a Life

NOTICES

Malcolm Kemp, former organist here, sadly died this week. May he rest in peace.

This afternoon we will be holding a **Christingle** celebration at 4pm. This is especially aimed at children and their families. Please do give out last minute invitations. We will be making the Christingles during coffee this morning.

Next Sunday at 5pm is our **Light up a Life** service.

We will be **carol singing** at Chartwell on Wednesday 10th and at Chatsworth on Wednesday 17th, both at 11am. The more the merrier!

There will be no **Tea at the Good Shepherd** on Tuesday this week due to Lancing's Carol Service.

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.

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

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