

Welcome to our service of

SUNG HOLY COMMUNION

ADVENT 1

10am on Sunday 29 November 2026
at St. Leonard's Church, Penwortham

PENWORTHAM
ST. LEONARD'S
FAMILYCHURCH

Parents please note: There are some toys and books set out in the worship area for children and toddlers. Please make yourself at home, we appreciate children can be noisy and there is no need to apologise for that, or to feel awkward, at any time. Please know, God delights in children and there is no need or requirement for them, or for you, to sit still in our time together.

the Welcome

Opening Hymn

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days of
Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are
days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the
desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun,
at the trumpet call Lift your voice,
it's the year of Jubilee
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes

These are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant
David Rebuilding
the temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white as the world
And we are the laborers
in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun,
at the trumpet call Lift your voice,
it's the year of Jubilee
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes

the Greeting

The Lord be with you
All: **and also with you.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors, and the king of glory shall come in.

Psalm 24.7

Prayer of Preparation

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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.
Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, 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. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Ring

The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit as wesing the first verse of A Candle is Burning to the tune of Away in a Manger.

A candle is burning,
a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in
December's dark night,
While angels sing blessings
from heaven's dark sky,
Our hearts we prepare now
for Jesus is nigh.

In our prayer, we remember the witness of the Old Testament Patriarchs.

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.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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.

All: **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord , you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the LORD .

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL HYMN

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.
Christ be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ be our light!

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!

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!

Bernadette Farrell

THE GOSPEL READING

MARK 13.24-END

Alleluia (x5). Prepare the way of the Lord, make | his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salva | tion of God. Alleluia (x5)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS SAID: 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

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 for 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.**

The Prayers

These responses may be used

We pray to the Father

All: **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, in your mercy

All: **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

(or)

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom, saying: Father, by your Spirit

All: **bring in your kingdom.**

The prayers conclude

Lord of the Church

All: **hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

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

We do not pass a collection plate during the service, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work, ministry and maintenance of the Parish, there is provision at the back of church for donations in cash, envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone using the reader at the back of the church. Thank you.

The Offertory Hymn

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
Come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Words: David Evans

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All: **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, 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.

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

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.

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:

All: **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All: **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 the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

All: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

All: **Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to 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.

All: **Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners.**
So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

Giving of Communion

The president and people receive communion. Our communion table is open to everyone aged over 7 years — but if you or your child would prefer a blessing, please do come to the rail and simply cross your arms over your chest. During Communion, we sing.

the Communion Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing:
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever,
His changeless name of Love.

J. MONTGOMERY (1771 - 1854)

Prayers after 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.**

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.

FINAL HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! etc...

O come, thou Dayspring,
come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows
put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! etc...

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way
that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! etc...

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! etc...

Tr. J. M. Neale (1818 - 66) and Others

Diocesan Mission Prayer

All: **God of Mission: Who alone brings growth to your church, Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship And power to our witness.**

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

the Blessing and Dismissal

Our Lord says, I am coming soon.

All: **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

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

All: **Amen.**

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy; and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Thank you for coming to our service this morning. Please take your order of service home with you.

In this season of giving please join us at St Leonard's to celebrate Jesus, the greatest gift of all. Come and help unwrap the joy, hope, peace and love with something for every age and every taste.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

at St Leonard's Family Church

Sun 29 Nov at 4:15pm

Tree Festival Songs of Praise

Our Tree Festival draws to a close with a time of worship and some well known hymns.

Sun 20 Dec at 6pm

Carol Service

Time to sing those well-known and much loved Carols and readings to set the scene for the Christmas week.

Wednesday 23 Dec at 4pm

Crib Service (two sleeps to go)

St. Leonard's traditional Crib Service for the younger children. Join our Christmas characters in their journey to Bethlehem.

Thursday 24 Dec at 5pm

Christingle Service

A Christmas Eve treat for all the family as we light candles, sing Carols and get ready for the birth of the Light of the World. In aid of the Children's Society.

Thursday 24 Dec at 11.30pm

Midnight Sung Holy Communion

A traditional sung Holy Communion and the first opportunity to welcome the new born King.

Friday 25 Dec at 9:15am

Christmas Day Holy Communion

Come and share the joy of Christmas with us as we celebrate Christmas together as a family.



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