**St Peter’s Church, Chellaston**

**in the Diocese of Derby**

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**An Order for**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

During the season of Advent

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

And they devoted themselves to the Apostle’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.

A sense of awe was everywhere . . .

*The Acts of the Apostles*

As watchmen look for the morning,

so do we look for you, O Christ.

Come with the dawning of the day,

and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread;

for you are our God for ever and ever.

*From an early Christian Liturgy*

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Collect for Advent Sunday*

****On pages 18 and 19 of this service booklet are some suggestions for preparation during our Advent Journey.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

The Welcome

Hymn

*A Minister gives the notices and reads the Banns of Marriage.*

*The Priest greets everyone.*

*Priest* Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

 and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

***All* And also with you.**

**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**

*Advent 1 The Patriarchs*

God of Abraham and Sarah,

and all the patriarchs of old,

you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,

Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth

to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit

to make his home among us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,**

**born in David’s city of Bethlehem,**

**born like him to be a king:**

**be born in our hearts at Christmas,**

**be King of our lives today.**

**Amen.**

People of God: awake!

The day is coming soon

when you shall see God face to face.

Remember the ways and the works of God.

God calls you out of darkness

to walk in the light of his coming.

You are God’s children.

**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ**

**today and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Advent 2 The Prophets*

God our Father,

you spoke to the prophets of old

of a Saviour who would bring peace.

You helped them to spread the joyful message

of his coming kingdom.

Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

to share with those around us

the good news of your power and love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,**

**the prophets said you would bring peace**

**and save your people in trouble.**

**Give peace in our hearts at Christmas**

**and show all the world God’s love.**

**Amen.**

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you,

giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light.

Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save.

You are God’s children.

**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ**

**today and for ever.** **Amen.**

*Advent 3 John the Baptist*

God our Father,

you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age

a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,

prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,

and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,

to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,**

**John told the people to prepare,**

**for you were very near.**

**As Christmas grows closer day by day,**

**help us to be ready to welcome you now.**

**Amen.**

People of God: return!

You are called to be God’s own.

From the mountains announce the good news.

God comes in justice and peace,

to all who follow his ways.

You are God’s children.

**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ**

**today and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Advent 4 Mary, mother of Jesus*

God our Father,

the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary

that she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid,

she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you,

to share like her in your great work

of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,**

**blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;**

**blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.**

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;**

**and bless us your children, who long for your coming.**

**Amen.**

People of God: prepare!

God, above all, maker of all,

is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God,

bends down in love to earth.

Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us,

comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God’s children,

we seek the coming Christ.

Maranatha!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

*The Deacon or Priest gives the invitation to confession in the following words:*

 When the Lord comes,

 He will bring to light those things now hidden in darkness,

 and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

 Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*We spend a few moments in silence considering the things we have done to mar God’s image in us before we bring them to him to ask his forgiveness.*

***All* 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.**

*Everyone says or sings the Kyrie Eleison.*

 **Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

 **Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.**

 **Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*The priest pronounces 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.

Amen.

**THE COLLECT**

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer, and then we say together the Collect for the Day.*

**THE READINGS**

*We sit for one or two readings from Scripture at the end of which the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord

***All* Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

**THE GOSPEL READING**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

*When the gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to *N.*

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

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**

**THE CREED**

**We believe in God,**

**the maker and shaper of our pathways;**

**who sent Jesus to show us the narrow way,**

**and who is the beginning and ending of our travelling.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ**

**the sharer of our flesh;**

**who entered and experienced the human journey,**

**and who walks beside us on the road.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit**

**the midwife and nurturer of our potential;**

**who drove Jesus into the desert,**

**and who calls us now to cast off from the shore.**

**We believe in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

**the shaper, sharer and stirrer of our journeys;**

**and we recommit ourselves to following their way.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*These or other responses may be used*

 Lord in your mercy

*All* hear our prayer.

 Lord hear us

*All* Lord, graciously hear us.

*and at the end*

Merciful Father,

*All* accept these prayers

 for the sake of your Son,

 our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

*We stand and the priest introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence and then says*

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.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

Offertory Hymn – *during which the gifts of bread and wine and the gifts of the people may be brought to the altar.*

*As the collection is presented the following prayer is said.*

*All* Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power,

the glory, the splendour and the majesty;

for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you,

and of your own do we give you.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

***All* Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

***All* Blessed be God forever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *(prayer E)*

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.**

The priest offers a preface for the season and the people respond

(from Advent 1 until 16th December)

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty 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 the whole company of heaven

to proclaim your glory,

forever praising you and saying: . . .

 (from 17th December until Christmas Eve)

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,

whom the Virgin Mary bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again,

he may find us watching in prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your glory,

and join in their unending hymn of praise: . . .

**All: 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying you destroyed** **our death,**

**rising you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with St Peter and all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Priest*  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.

 *or*

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

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Priest* Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

*All* We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*As the bread is broken the Agnus Dei is sung.*

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.

*or*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace,

give us your peace.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

 *Priest* Jesus is the Lamb of God

 who takes away the sin of the world.

 Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

 But only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*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.

*The priest and people receive communion.*

*The priest and chalice bearers use the words*

The body/blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*the communicant replies*

Amen.

*Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive holy communion. If you would rather receive a blessing please hold your hands down at the altar rail so that your intention in clear.*

*During communion hymns and an anthem may be sung.*

*When all have received communion, we sit or kneel to give thanks to God. The priest may first offer a post communion prayer and then we say together*

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.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

The Blessing

*Priest* 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.

*All* Amen

*The priest or deacon dismisses the people.*

 Go in the peace of Christ.

*All* Thanks be to God. Amen

*One of the Ministers talks to the members of the Blue Door Gang (Sunday School) who have joined us for communion.*

**Prayers of Preparation for Advent**

**In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity,**that our praise and worship might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission,
that the hope within might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service,
that the path we follow might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.

**In this season of expectation**

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah,
Into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude.
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah,
Into our homes and situations along with friends and families.
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah,
Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives.
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah,
For beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact.

You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins, all that can separate us from God,
exchanged by your Grace for Love.
We cannot comprehend the reasoning,

only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable,
and reaches out to a world in need.

In this season of anticipation
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

**A Finger Labyrinth**

Place a finger from your non-dominant hand at the entrance to the labyrinth. As you trace the circuit, stay open to whatever presents itself: feelings, sensations, memories, images, or just “knowings.” Pause to meditate in prayer at any time, breathe, be with a memory, work with an image, or simply relax.

You may like to use the prayer below as you begin and end.

**Walk with us Lord through all the twists and turns of life,
Walk with us when the clouds obscure the way,
when what seemed close is now so far away.
Walk with us Lord until we trust in you,
Lead us to the centre of your love.**

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**Refreshments are usually served in the Church Hall**

**or at the back of Church following the service.**

**Please do stay if you are able.**

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