

***St Bridget's, West Kirby***  
***with Caldy Church***



**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**DURING THE SEASON OF**  
**ADVENT**

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as we look to celebrate the coming of Jesus in His incarnation at Christmas. Lasting for four Sundays before Christmas, Advent starts on the Sunday closest to November 30<sup>th</sup> and ends on Christmas Eve.

The Church takes the colour purple for Advent, also used for funerals. It is considered a solemn colour and reminds us of contemplative waiting as we look at ourselves and the world around us and ask what might need challenging or changing. It is a time when we wait with hope for the God who is to come.

To mark this period of waiting, many churches have advent wreaths with five candles, four in the outer ring and one in the centre.

Each Sunday the candle represents a different theme –

Week 1: for HOPE and for God's people who put their trust in God's promises

Week 2: for PEACE and the Old Testament prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Week 3: for LOVE and for John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus the Messiah.

Week 4: for JOY and for Mary who was chosen to bear Jesus.

The candle in the centre, always white, is lit on Christmas day as the light of Christ. As we light these candles we celebrate the hope, peace, love and joy we find in Jesus Christ.

During Advent we are invited to pause, to watch, to wait, and to think about how each of us might reflect the light and love of God which we celebrate coming into the world at Christmas.

## THE GATHERING

### **A hymn may be sung**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

*All:*       **and also with you.**

### **Welcome and lighting of the Advent candle**

### **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**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the  
darkness of our hearts. Therefore, in the light of Christ  
let us confess our sins  
*a time of quiet reflection*

Christ came in humility to share our lives:  
Forgive our pride Lord, have mercy

*All:*     **Lord have mercy**

Christ came with good news for all people:  
Forgive our silence Christ, have mercy

*All:*     **Christ have mercy**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:  
Forgive our selfishness Lord, have mercy

*All:*     **Lord have mercy**

## **The Absolution**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All*       **Amen.**

## **The Collect - prayer for the day**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*One or two readings from Scripture may be read. At the end of each*

This is the word of the Lord

*All:*     **Thanks be to God**

**A hymn may be sung**

## **The Gospel**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

*All:*       **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
*N*

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

*at the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of faith**

*All:*       **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 Prayers**

*We pray for the needs of the Church, the world and for all in need*

Lord in your mercy  
*All:*       **Hear our prayer**

*And at the end*

Merciful father  
*All:*       **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.

*All:* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## An offertory hymn may be sung

*The bread and wine may be brought to the altar, and all is prepared for the Holy Communion*

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### Eucharistic Prayer (E)

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

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 saying:

*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.

Christ is the bread of life:

*All:* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you 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 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.

*All:* **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**All: 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 forever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**All: Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All: 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

*This or an alternative invitation is used*

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 are welcome to come for communion. If you would prefer a blessing simply keep your hands down.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence may be kept*

*A prayer suitable for the Sunday or Season may be used*

*All:*       **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.**

*Notices may now be given*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*This or another seasonal Blessing is used*

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, Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All:*       **Amen**

## **A hymn may be sung**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

We praise and thank you, Creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.  
Each year you come to us, Emmanuel,  
God with us in a manger.  
Each time you come to us  
in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
In time or out of time you will be revealed  
and we shall see you face to face.

Give us courage, God our strength,  
to see your Christ in all who suffer,  
to be hands to the helpless,  
food for the hungry,  
and rescue for the oppressed

Amen

