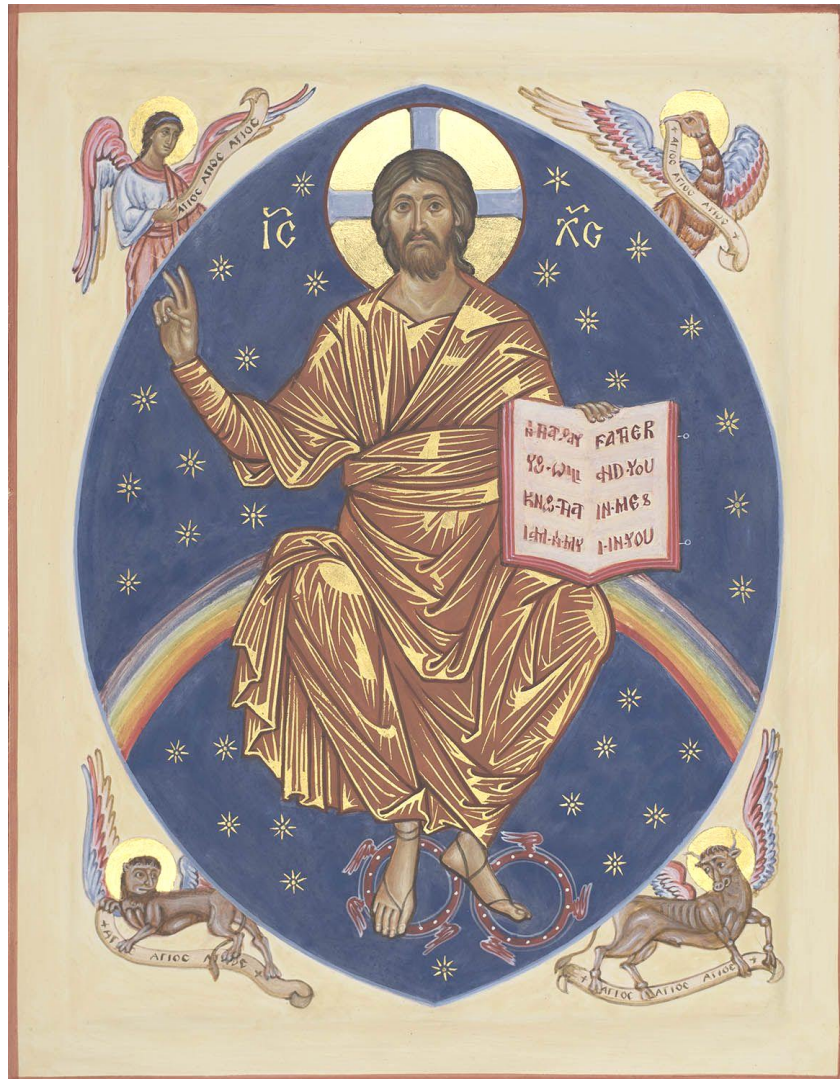


THE PARISH CHURCH
OF
SAINT ANDREW
OLD HEADINGTON



WORSHIP AT HOME
IN
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

In the Church's Year we are in Advent which marks the beginning of the new year in the church. Our Gospel readings this coming year will focus on St Luke.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation. It anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. Since the time of Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153) Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

Each Sunday, you will find the readings on the church website and via the parish email news (you can subscribe to this by sending an email to parishoffice.headington@gmail.com)

Choose a space in your home which is peaceful and create your own worship space. Candles, and / or a cross can help to make the space feel special.

If you are worshipping with someone else in your household think about how you will share out the elements of the service. For example, where there are numbered verses you might say them by alternate verse.

You will find some options for intercessions at the back of the booklet but feel free to use silence as well. Sometimes you might also like to try a version of the Lord's Prayer that you are less familiar with!

If you would like any more resources please contact any of the clergy.

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Anticipating the Light of the World

As you light your Advent candle you can use the words from the weekly Sunday material

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

This prayer of thanksgiving is said

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Penitence

This form of confession is used

Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer for forgiveness is said

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm

You will find the psalm with the other Sunday readings.

At the end you may say

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

*You may use as many of the provided readings as you wish.
The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.*

After all the readings this responsory may be used

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,
for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

from Romans 13

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

From 17 December until Christmas Eve

**Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows,
the Christ will come down upon us.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

From 17 December until Christmas Eve

**Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows,
the Christ will come down upon us.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day or the following is said

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.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Awaiting his coming in glory,
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)

Awaiting his coming in glory,
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 Conclusion

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

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Resources for the Prayers

Gracious God, as we seek you in prayer, help us to meet you as you come to us. Help us to prepare your way in our lives - and to announce your coming in love to others

Father, we ask your blessing upon the Church.
Bless those who lead your church on earth, our bishops and clergy. We pray especially for Steven our Bishop and for his ministry among your people in this diocese.
May your Church continue to prepare the way for your coming into this world by a life of faithful service to you and your creation. *R*

Lord hear our prayer for your healing hand in our lives and in the lives of others that we bring before you.
Fill the valleys with your light, level the uneven paths with your grace, and grant that your Spirit might so move us and others, that your saving presence might be visible to all. *R*

Lord, let there to be peace in our lives and peace in our churches, and peace in our world. Where there is injustice move the world to repentance – and help us confess to those we have grieved and seek their forgiveness; and grant that all who have caused hurt may see your light and be made new in Christ. *R*

Holy Spirit, Breath of God, comfort your people.
Comfort the dying so they know trust not terror;
comfort the bereaved so they know peace not pain;
and give those without faith a glimpse of the Father who still has faith in them. *R*

Holy God, receive into your kingdom those who trusted in your Incarnate Son and who through baptism were marked by your Holy Spirit. We pray especially for those whom we have loved and see no more. *R*

Father, accept these prayers:
As you prepared humanity for your coming at Bethlehem,
So prepare us to receive you in our hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*A time of open or silent prayer may follow.
Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.*

(or)

Let us by prayer and intercession with thanksgiving
make our requests to God.

Gracious God,
we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation
throughout the world.

We pray for this country and Elizabeth our Queen,
and for those who lead the nations of this United Kingdom.

We pray for the honouring of human rights,
and for the relief of the oppressed.

We give thanks for all that is gracious
in the lives of men, women and children. *R*

We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith, love and service.

We pray for Steven our bishop and for the life of our parish.

We give thanks for the gift of your word,
the grace of the sacraments

and the fellowship of your people. *R*

We pray for this local community
and for all people in their daily life and work.

We pray for the young and the elderly,
for families, and all who are alone.

We give thanks for human skill and creativity
and all that reveals your loveliness. *R*

We pray for those who are in need;
for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved.

We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.

We give thanks for human love and friendship
and for all that enriches our daily lives. *R*

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

A time of open or silent prayer may follow.

Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.

(or)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you promised through your Son Jesus Christ
to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen Steven our Bishop and all who,
in leading the Church follow in the footsteps of the apostles
bless the witness of this church and the work of our parish,
that those who confess your name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *R*

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen;
give wisdom and integrity to all those elected to lead us;
and direct this and every nation
in the ways of justice and of peace,
that all peoples may learn to honour one another,
and seek the common good. *R*

Give grace to us, our families and friends,
and to all our neighbours,
that we may serve Christ in one another,
and love as he loves us. *R*

Heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
comfort the bereaved.
give them courage and hope in their troubles;
and bring them the joy of your salvation. *R*

Hear us as we remember those who have died
in the faith of Christ;
According to your promises,
grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom. *R*

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God

*A time of open or silent prayer may follow.
Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.*