

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd December 2023

Welcome to Saint Peter's



The Prophet Isaiah, Michelangelo,
Sistine Chapel Ceiling (1542-45)

Vicar:

Rev. Jonathan Chamberlain

Director of music:

Andrew Kerr

10AM

CHORAL EUCHARIST



**The Anglican Church of
Saint Peter in Brighton Beach**

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Advent

Introduction to the Season

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty. (Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

From A Common Worship
Church of England

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The priest greets all in the name of the Lord

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

The priest says a prayer as the first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
You have called your people through the ages
to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The priest introduces the confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness,
and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Pause for reflection

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one
another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The priest leads the congregation in saying the Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Faithful God,

whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:
renew us in hope,
that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

[sit]

A reading from second Samuel.

2 Samuel 7: 4, 5, 8-16

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies... When your days are fulfilled..I will raise up your offspring after you, he shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom...I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me..Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.'

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Reading response Psalm 122

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock:
you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God:
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

- ⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbours:
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts:
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand:
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- ¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

9.2-4,6-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder..
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

1
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 you, O Israel.*

2

O come, O come, great Lord of might
Who to the tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

3

O come, O 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! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

4

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

5

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING

Alleluia, alleluia!

Show us your mercy, O Lord: and grant us your salvation.

Drop down O heavens from above: and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

The priest says

I now ask you all to affirm as yours the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[please kneel or sit]

The priest says

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Prayers and thanksgivings are offered

After each prayer

...Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with those around you.
During the Offertory hymn, a collection is taken up*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The priest begins 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 our thanks and praise.

...for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest says

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words that Christ has taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The priest says

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Please tell the priest if you would prefer to receive a blessing.
Please feel free to stand or kneel at the altar rail.*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

DISMISSAL HYMN

1

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply shamed before him, deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him,
shall the true Messiah see.

3

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4

Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

The priest says

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your Son,

**All keep us ever watchful
 that we may be ready to stand before him
 on the day of his coming.**

The priest says

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The priest says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

You are invited to Morning tea. All are most warmly welcome!