



*Living out faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action*

Celebrating Communion

Season of Advent

(Scottish Liturgy 1982)



Advent Sunday
3rd December 2023

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Edinburgh

THE PREPARATION: *we open ourselves to God*

Advent Chant

On God alone I wait silently;
God my deliverer, God my strong tower.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system is marked 'quietly'. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half note 'On', followed by a quarter note 'God', a half note 'a-lone', a quarter note 'I', a half note 'wait', a quarter note 'si-lent-ly', and a final half note. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) provides a steady harmonic support with chords. The second system continues the vocal line with 'God my de-liv-er-er, God my strong tower.' The piano accompaniment continues with similar chords.

Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

At the lighting of the Advent Candle

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
Born in David's city of Bethlehem,
Born like him to be a king:
Be born on our hearts this Christmastide,
Be king of our lives today.**

Tune: *Personent Hodie*

Take this light, let it shine:
call of God, love divine,
summons old Abram's line,
hope for all the nations
gift of God's salvation.

*Shine, O candles, shine,
Burn with love divine,
to the night,
comes the light
of the Father's glory.*

After the advent prayer, we say together
**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
Shine in our lives
And shine among us now.**

Opening Hymn

Hon 307

Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Once for mortal sinners slain
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign,

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty
we who set at naught and sold Him
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see

Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Collect for Purity.

**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.**

Confession & Absolution

In Advent, we long for your coming,
for light to overwhelm the powers of darkness,
for your hidden glory to be revealed.
And yet, we confess the ways in which we prefer to remain in
darkness than to open ourselves to the light.

Sung **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - - son.

Music Ukrainian traditional chant

(Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy)

We long for our desires to be shaped by the needs of your kingdom,

by the justice and mercy that makes us all whole.

And yet, we confess the ways in which our desires are shaped by the false gods of status and comfort.

Sung **Kyrie eleison, ...**

We long for everything to be made right now,

for our hurts to be mended and our wounds healed.

And yet, we confess our reluctance to wait on your cleansing, healing word that reveals our complicity in all that ails us.

Sung **Kyrie eleison, ...**

God, who is both power and love,

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect Advent Sunday

Stir up your power, Lord, and come: that, with you as our protector, we may be rescued from our sins; and with you as our deliverer, we may be

set free; for you live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD: we listen and respond to God

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64, 1-9, read by Bob Allen

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 forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18 led by Bob Allen

¹Give 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!**

³Restore 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?**

⁵You 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.

¹⁶They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

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.

New Testament Reading Corinthians 1, 3-9, read by Bob Allen

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gradual Hymn

CG 25

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Saviour.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Gospel Mark 13: 24-37 read by Jenny Robertson

“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.”

At end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Among the poor,

among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged,
Christ is coming,
He is coming to make all things new.

In the private house,
in the market place,
in the wedding feast,
in the judgement hall,
Christ is coming,
He is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch,
with an angry word,
with a clear conscience,
with burning love,
Christ is coming,
He is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come,
that the world might believe,
that the powerful might stumble,
that the humble might be raised.
Christ is coming,
He is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us,
among us, before us,
in this place, in every place,
for this time, for all time,
Christ is coming,
He is coming to make all things new.

Intercessions

Peace

We meet in Christ's name
Let us share his peace

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

Hon 321

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;

let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.

Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**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 we give you.**

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 God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son,
the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation,
given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,

we who bear your threefold likeness
look for the City of Peace
in whose light we are transfigured
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.
In Jesus you showed us yourself.
Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
he opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
'Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.'
After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:
'Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,

that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised
into the fellowship of Christ's Body,
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage,
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles and prophets, Martin
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages,
world without end. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has 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 to-day our daily bread:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us Do not bring us to the time of trial

but deliver us from evil For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever Amen

Invitation and the Sharing of Communion

Communion is shared around the altar. All are warmly invited to receive bread and wine. Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please indicate this by carrying this booklet.

Sentence

Give thanks to our gracious God,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Post Communion Prayer.

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 life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

One of the following is said:

**Father, we have broken the bread which is Christ's body,
we have tasted the wine of his new life.
We thank you for these gifts
by which we are made one in him
and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all;
through him who died for us and rose again,
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

- (b) Father, your steadfast purpose
is the completion of all things in your Son.
May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom,
live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Junior Church Presentation (*if meeting*)

Notices

Final Hymn

Hon 209

Hills of the north, rejoice;
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice;
him who made earth and skyes:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze,
hope of the world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,

he is your brightest morn;
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the North we come,
from East, and West, and South.
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the longing earth be blest.

THE SENDING OUT

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

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

Organ Voluntary

Do join us for tea or coffee at the back of the church after our service. All are welcome.

Notices

December January Newsletter please send articles for the Newsletter to felicitymurdanaigum@hotmail.co.uk by Wednesday 7th December 2023.

Church Away Weekend 19-21 July. Thankyou to those who have now confirmed attendance at the weekend. More details to follow

Intercessions List.

Today we are starting a fresh list of names. Please add those in particular need of our prayers and date the entry. They will be included in our prayers for four weeks and of course can be added again as appropriate.

Wednesday 1100: Advent Reflection in Church. All Welcome

Advent and Christmas Service details are on a separate leaflet.

Christmas lights will be switched on at Gorgie on Sunday 10th December at 6pm.