

First Sunday in Advent - Waking Up to the Gifts of Simplicity

27 November 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



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The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," it seems to say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiven;

So, when next he comes in glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

Call to Worship

The heavens are trembling with anticipation,
And we wait for Jesus.

The nights are long and the days are short,
And we wait for Jesus.

Our redemption is drawing near,
And we wait for Jesus.

We hope in God and worship as people ready to see the salvation of our God!



Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Lighting of the First Candle



Today is the beginning of Advent—the time of preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth. We are here because God’s promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God’s promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory. In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter’s season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. These candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ’s coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

First Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Hope

Isaiah 60:2 says:

*For night shall cover the earth, and thick shadows the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will appear over you.*

Lighting the Advent Candle

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

The colour of this candle is purple— symbolizing the majesty of Christ, whose glory shines in the night.

Let us pray

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world.

By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people.

Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ, so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so we may be a people of hope in our world. Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the Lord:

Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God’s Name, now and forever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid:
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.

Kyrie

Morena re hauhele, Morena re hauhele
Morena re hauhele, Morena re hauhele

Kriste, Kriste re hauhele, Kriste, Kriste re hauhele
Kriste, Kriste re hauhele, Kriste re hauhele

Morena re hauhele, Morena re hauhele
Morena re hauhele, Morena re hauhele

Confession

Let us ask forgiveness from the Lord

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your Name.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you:
pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen
you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

**Almighty Father,
Your Son came to us in humility as our Saviour
And at the last day he will come again in glory as our judge:
Give us grace to turn away from darkness
to the light of Christ
that we will be ready to welcome him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever Amen**



Word of God

Isaiah 2:1–5

Psalm 122

Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord

I know my sheep

and mine know me

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24: 36-44

Sermon

by Revd Alison Thabethe

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us

with power from on high.

We believe in one God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, hear the prayers we offer on behalf of your church, the world and all those in need:

We pray for your church today, gathering all around the world in tiny churches and great cathedrals to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite instead behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that you would drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule in all areas of the world where there is conflict and where peace has been powerless and violent people have had their way. We ask you to govern the hearts and minds of those who lead our nations and for those in authority that they may act justly, with honesty and integrity according to your will.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

In our daily life, help us never to forget the supremacy of love. Motivate our care for our neighbourhoods in St Michael's Parish and the surrounding areas and may your love heal the social ills, which sometimes drag us into despair. We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds through the warm actions of fellow Christians and people of goodwill.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing and we pray particularly for the repose of the souls of those who died recently.... and for those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all bereaved families so that they too may look forward in hope, to the coming of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful father accept these our prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ **Amen**

Prayer for Offerings

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour 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 them that 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.**

Final 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 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 Blessing

The light of the Advent Candle goes before us,
offering hope and healing to a darkened world.
Go into the world, confident in God's presence with you.
Bring the words and actions of peace to all God's people.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with always.

Amen.

Dismissal

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

Final Hymn

Thy kingdom come, O God,
thy rule, O Christ, begin;
break with thine iron rod
the tyrannies of sin.



Where is thy reign of peace
and purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
as in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
that war shall be no more,
and lust, oppression, crime
shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,
and come in thy great might;
revive our longing eyes,
which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
thick darkness broodeth yet:
arise, O Morning Star,
arise, and never set!

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

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