



A Liturgy of the Word - First Sunday in Advent

28 November 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

Processional Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find out rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope to all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry 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 thy all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Author: Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Call to Worship

From the rising of the sun to its setting
Let the name of the Lord be praised

Though the Lord is high above all nations
And his glory above the heavens

He raises the poor from the dust
And lifts the needy from the ash heap

To make them sit with princes,
With the princes of his people

Come, let us bless the Lord
Let us bless his name forever

Introduction

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, in the northern hemisphere, 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 of 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.

Light the first candle - Hope

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. Amen**

The Kyrie

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

Kriste, Kriste re hauhele
Kriste, Kriste re hauhele

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

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe





The Penitence

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light. Whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be seen that works have been done in God. Let us come to the light of Christ as we confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be.
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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.**

The 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**

The Word of God

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel Acclamation

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia

Let your hearts rejoice in the Lord
Let your word proclaim his deeds
Let your voice sing out to the world
That our God has come to save

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia





Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

The Revd Alison Thabethe

Affirmation of Faith

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

As we enter this time of prayer, let us approach the throne of grace with hearts and hands open to God.

This first Sunday of Advent, we give you thanks, heavenly Father, for your promise, those many hundreds of years ago, to send us salvation through your Son. We know that you are a faithful whose promise proves sure. And so, as we await his coming again, may our hearts be gladdened with joyful expectation.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

May this season of Advent be for us a time of reflection and discernment. Help us to distil from our lives all that which detracts from the fullness of life we have in you. As we look for signs of birth and rebirth, may we be renewed by your Holy Spirit in our thinking and our habits.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

When we look around us there is much reason to despair, much reason to become cynical. Help us, Lord, to find new ways to hope for, in hoping, we are moved to act and become agents of your transformative kingdom. Save us from cynicism and negativity. May we see the world, as your infant Son did 2000 years ago, namely as one full of promise and potential.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We know that the festive season is, in large part, about spending quality time with our loved ones. Be with those who are without family, Lord, or who are far from family, or who perhaps are estranged from family. Be present to them in their loneliness and grant them your peace and comfort. This Christmas time may we not take family for granted, but instead cherish every moment we are able to share with them.



Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord of all creation, in this Advent time, enable us to read the signs of the times. In regard to earth's natural environment, we pray for the advent of a Kairos moment, that we would be convicted of our wastage and spoilage of the earth's resources. May governments and communities make genuine and meaningful changes to economic policies which are wasteful or exploitative.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for those suffering economic hardship. As the spirit of Christmas draws out of us acts of charity, we look around us, and perhaps are overwhelmed by the sheer levels of unemployment and homelessness. We know that this cannot be your will, heavenly Father. Grant us then willingness and capacity to help where we can, as we continue to pray for greater economic opportunity for all people of our land.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As businesses and schools prepare to close for holidays, we pray your hand of protection and blessing upon all our parishioners who might be travelling on holiday or to visit loved ones this festive season. Grant them travelling mercies, rest and restoration, and a safe return.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of the ages, you fulfil the prayers and requests of your faithful as is most expedient to them. Receive these our prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord, 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.**

The Lord's Prayer



Composer: David Fanshawe

Prayer of Thanksgiving



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**



Final Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

Recessional Hymn

**1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**3 Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
all who hate him must, confounded,
hear the trump proclaim the day:
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment, come away!**

**5 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly;
alleluia! come, Lord, come.**

**2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**4 Now Redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear!
All his saints, by man rejected,
now shall meet him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the day of God appear!**



Author: Charles Wesley (1758)

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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