



# A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday Advent

Date : 20 December 2020



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Allie Joseph



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

## Processional Hymn



Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the Source, the Ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the Scriptures of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long expected;  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be,  
honor, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!

*Translator: H. W. Baker; Translator: J. M. Neale  
Organist: Matthew Vlok  
Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe*



Call to Worship

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.
Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God
as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

We embrace our identity as God's beloved children
and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.
In our homes and in our Church we offer hospitality,
welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need,
and those who are different from us.

As we worship, let us demonstrate our care for creation
in real and tangible ways through the products we buy,
the food we eat, and the way we live every day.
Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.

Lighting of the Advent Candle



Introduction

As we gather around the Advent wreath, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy. Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

The First Letter of John 4:9-11 says:

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Child into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Child to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Lighting of the Candle

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

The colour of this candle is purple—symbolizing the majesty of Christ, who rules in the power of love.

Let us pray:

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person— babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us as Christmas approaches and let love be born in our hearts as you were born into the world on Christmas Day.



*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*

*Let us pray.*

**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.**



*The Kyrie*

**(Lord Have Mercy (SATB) - Lloyd Larson, Steve Merkel)**

*The Penitence*

The Psalmist tells us that "happy are those whose help is in God." Ps. 146:5  
Therefore, with trusting and open hearts, let us approach God and confess our sins together.

**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.**



*The Collect*

**God of Elizabeth and Mary:  
make our hearts leap with joy,  
fill our mouths with songs of praise  
and make us ready to welcome the Christ in our midst;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen**

*The Word of God*

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16  
Psalm 89:1–4, 19–27  
Romans 16:25–27

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Open our hearts o Lord  
To listen to your words of your Son

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

*Gospel Reading*

Luke 1:26–38

*Sermon*

by Rev. Allie Joseph

*Affirmation of Faith*

*Let us declare our faith in God.*

**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



#### *For the Church*

Loving God, we bring before you the needs of our church. We pray for the universal church, Thabo our Archbishop, bishop Steve the bishop of our diocese and our very own clergy and ministry staff at St Michael's. We pray that you allow church leaders everywhere the blessing of your inspiration. We remember in a special way, retired clergy who have served your people with dedication and love. Bless and direct our every effort and allow your church to grow in your love.

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

#### *For our world and its leaders*

We pray for world leaders and organisations charged with ensuring the wellbeing of those under their authority. May they see your hand at work in their lives, inspire them with your Holy Spirit, that they realise the greatest commandment and live in love of God and neighbour.

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

#### *For families and friends*

Lord we bring before you the parish community of St Michael's. Bless us and keep us in your divine love, despite the challenges we have faced in this year. May we always be motivated by our love for you and the love we share for our neighbour. Bless our family units and keep us close to you. Bless all those whom you have given us to know and love, remind us often of the love that you have for us.

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

#### *For those in need*

Lord, as Christians we have the special mission to bring your love and care to the least of your brothers and sisters. Bless our every effort at doing good and practicing works of charity. We pray in a special way for those who have asked us for our prayers and those in need of your special care. Give strength and resolve to our intercessors and members of the Christ Healing Fellowship and all those they are praying for.

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

#### *For our children and young people*

Lord we bring before you our children and young people, their families, and friends. We pray for the children and young people of our church, those in Sunday school, those anticipating holy communion and confirmation in the new year. May your divine counsel always keep them in the blessed assurance of your Love for them. Lord we pray your blessing on their parents and guardians, help them in whatever way they need your assistance.

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

#### *Prayer for guidance*

In these present uncertainties we raise our hearts and minds to you Lord. Be with the older members of our congregation, bless them with health and a positive spirit. Bless and protect families who must go through difficult



changes and new realities while those around them celebrate the joy of Christmas. As we come to the close of a very challenging year, Lord guide our feet in the way of your peace. Help us to always choose love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer!**

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

*Prayer for Offerings* 

God of love and joy, God of peace and hope, we are so grateful for these Advent gifts, which bring comfort and courage even in the most challenging times. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty. Bless them with your grace so that they will bring love to those who need it so much this year. Bless our lives, too, so that we shine with your love, blessing others in the name of Jesus, our friend and Saviour.

*The Lord's Prayer* 

**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.**



*Prayer of Thanksgiving* 

Thank you that in worship we can put aside,  
the uncertainties of this world  
and rest upon the certainties of the Kingdom,  
for your promises are not changeable  
as those of a politician might be,  
but immovable and eternal.

Thank you that we can bring to your feet  
all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them there,  
knowing that your strength and assurance  
are all that we require

Thank you that as we draw near in worship,  
we are transported from a world of concerns and fears,  
to a place where we can be at peace in your presence,  
find healing, wholeness, and refreshment.  
In the name of Christ,  
**Amen.**



## Final Blessing



The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

May the Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

May the long-expected Saviour fill you with love,

May the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Dismissal



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Recessional 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.



*Author: Charles Wesley*

### Acknowledgements:

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989 Provincial Trustees of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Weekly Worship : The Church of Scotland

The Presbyterian Church of Canada.



*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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