



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN



PARISH EUCHARIST
IN ADVENT

Welcome to St Leonard's Church.

*In this service booklet the words printed in **bold** are usually said or sung by all. Please stand or sit during the service as you feel comfortable. If you are unsure about what to do or where to be during the service, please ask someone. Our "welcomers" at each church door are there to help you, if you have a question or need assistance.*

Children & Young People – most weeks Junior Church & our creche meet in the Nicholls Room (through the doors at the back left of the church). If you are visiting, please sign your children in.

Hearing loop – our hearing loop works most effectively in the nave (where the pews are). Please select the 'T' position.

Toilets – can be found through the doors at the back left of the church.

Refreshments – after the service we share refreshments together. You are warmly invited to have a drink and a chat - but if you'd rather slip away, that's OK too.

In this season of Advent, we take time, in all the busyness of the weeks before Christmas, to prepare ourselves for God's coming among us. We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God entering fully into human life, and we express our longing for that time when the whole of creation will be caught up in the fullness of God's love and life. It is a time of waiting, of patience, a time to think on the great themes of our lives. It comes at the darkest time of the year, and we use symbols of light, especially the candles of the Advent wreath, to announce the hope and expectation which are at the heart of the season.

Before the service begins, you may like to prepare yourself using the words of this prayer:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us
therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and
to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and
our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may
evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

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

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Everyone is welcomed.

*One or more candles on the Advent wreath is lit,
and one of the following prayers is said:*

The first Sunday of Advent

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.**

The second Sunday of Advent

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.**

The third Sunday of Advent

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

The fourth Sunday of Advent

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**

Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
He will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

All **Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

(or)

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

After a period of silent prayer, the collect is said.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

At the end of each passage this response is used:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

An anthem or psalm may be sung between the readings

Gradual Hymn or Canticle

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to *N.*

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

All

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
 and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
 under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel.

A time of prayer is introduced.

After each intercession this response may be used:

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

at the end, we may say

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace

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

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

Preparation of the Table

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented,
the table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

The following or another suitable prayer is said:

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer (A)

The Lord is here. **(or)** The Lord be with you.
All **His Spirit is with us. And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the
 world to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and *singing*:

(or)

From 17 December until Christmas Eve:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All **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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

(or)

Christ is the bread of life:

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

As we look for the coming of the Kingdom,
Lord, teach us to pray:

All

**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 those who 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

(or)

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(or)

All **Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

This prayer may be said

**All Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*All are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.
During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

Prayer after Communion

A post communion prayer may be said, followed by

**All We thank you Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing

This or another suitable blessing is used

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

All **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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



Advent Canticles

Second Sunday of Advent: *Benedictus* (Kingsfold)

Now bless the God of Israel who comes in love and power,
who raises from the royal house deliv'rance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.
And you, my child, shall go before, to preach, to prophesy,
that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace,
that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One, O worship and adore.

Second half of tune:

To God the Father, fount of grace, through his beloved Son,
with God their Spirit, bond of love, be glory ever One.

(words: Ruth Duck; Doxology: James Quinn SJ)

Third Sunday of Advent: *First Song of Isaiah* (Blaenwern)

Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make God's deeds known to the peoples:
tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing;
for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst the great and
Holy One of Israel.

(Words: Carl P Daw, Jr.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent: *Magnificat* (Gerontius)

With Mary let my soul rejoice,
and praise God's holy name –
his saving love from first to last,
from age to age the same!

How strong his arm, how great his power!
the proud he will disown;
the meek and humble he exalts
to share his glorious throne.

The rich our God will send away
and feed the hungry poor;
the arms of love remain outstretched
at mercy's open door.

So shall God's promise be fulfilled,
to Israel firmly made:
a child is born, a Son is given
whose crown will never fade.

All glory to the Father, Son
and Spirit now proclaim;
with Mary let the world rejoice
and praise God's holy name!

A VOICE CRIES OUT IN THE WILDERNESS,
'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD.'
SO LET US LISTEN,
AND TURN TO THE LORD
IN PENITENCE AND FAITH.

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