

# Advent Worship

## Welcome

### Lighting of the First Advent Candle The Candle of Hope

We remember the Patriarchs,  
the Old Testament Ancestors  
of Jesus

Leader: May your hearts be filled with hope as you hear the  
promises God made to bless all the peoples on earth  
through Abraham, the father of our faith.

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a  
candle to remember the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac  
and Jacob, the ancestors of our faith.

### Genesis Chapter 12

The LORD had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people  
and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.  
"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will  
curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:  
to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to  
live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised  
fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and  
watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our  
path; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for  
ever. *(A person lights the first candle here)*

Leader: Let us pray:  
**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.**



## Prayer

Minister Wait for the Lord; praise his name  
be strong and brave and put your hope in the Lord

**All We will praise the name of the Lord  
we will trust in him  
and keep the faith of Christ Jesus**

Minister The tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from heaven shall break upon us  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**All Lord Jesus, may your grace draw us ever closer to  
you that we might know your presence in our lives  
this Christmas time.**

## Hymn

Lo! He comes, 424

## Confession

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sins to God, seeking his mercy and forgiveness.

**Holy and forgiving God, we have sinned against you and each other, in thought and word and deed. We have turned from your life-giving word, and ignored the message of those you sent. We are unprepared for the advent of your Son. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, that strengthened by your love we may serve you more faithfully through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Minister will say the words of forgiveness*

## The Offering

**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 do we give you.**

## Hymn

Darkness like a shroud, 110

## **Baptism**

### **Collect Prayer**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Common Worship*

### **Bible Readings**

*(These readings may be followed in Partnership News)*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn**

Colours of day, *(On Partnership News)*

### **The Address**

Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

### **Creed**

*(We stand to say together)*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's 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.**

### Hymn

Come thou long expected Jesus, 102

### Prayers

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

#### 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 those who trespass against us.  
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.**

### Hymn

God is working His purpose out, 189

### Blessing

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

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

---

### Gift Service



Today is our Gift Service, the occasion on which we close our Partnership Christmas Charity. This year we are supporting the Bishop of St Albans Sweeter Deal which will provide equipment to enable people in Ethiopia to keep bees, produce honey to make money to sustain their families.

---

*Thank you to all those who have helped prepare our churches or helped us in our worship this morning.*