

St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The Second Sunday Before Advent**

**19th November 2017**

**THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:** 500 ‘Lift up your hearts!’

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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.

Priest: Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

After a period for silent reflection:

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Priest: 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. **Amen.**

All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord

***(sing)* God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect:** Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah** *(Zeph 1. 7, 12–18)*

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.’ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated*) 571‘Soldiers of Christ, arise!’

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians** *(1 Thess 5 1–11)*

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual hymn:** *(please stand)*  461 ‘Help us to help each other, Lord’

##### THE GOSPEL

Priest: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *(Mt 25. 14–30)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

##### the sermon

Please stand for the Nicene Creed

Priest: We believe in one God,

**All: 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.

The Intercession *(please kneel)*

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father

The prayers are led by a member of the congregation. Each section ends:

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy **All: Hear our prayer.**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

* **those who are ill:** (4)Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington (3) Su Williams, Eleanor Moran, Carol Latimer, Kerrie Hadland, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman, (2) Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Glenys Quiggley (1) Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Barbara Cook, Val Carter, Bill Lowson
* **those who have died:**  Joan Gauton, Pat Wilcock, Barbara Lee
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**:

***Sunday:*** Doris Lee ***Wednesday:*** Matt Morrow

***Saturday:*** Karen Shaw

*After the final petition:*

Intercessor: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers**

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**The Peace**   *(please stand)*

Priest:To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

**Offertory Hymn:** 290 ‘Christians, lift your hearts and voices’

Eucharistic Prayer E *(please kneel)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

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.

Priest: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness if sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Priest: Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Saint Andrew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Priest: Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

Priest: 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.**

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

*(sing)* 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.

Priest: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is administered at the front of Church. Everyone is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion at this Eucharist. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward at the same time.

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the following hymns are sung:

299 ‘From glory to glory advancing, we praise thee, O Lord’

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness,

and all these things will be added unto you: Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Allelu, alleluia.*

You shall not live by bread alone, but by ev’ry word

that proceeds from the mouth of God; Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Allelu, alleluia.*

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find;

knock, and it shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Allelu, alleluia.*

**After Communion:**

Priest: Let us pray: Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Priest:Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Recessional Hymn:** 448 ‘God of grace and God of glory’

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ.

**Services and Notices for the coming week:**

Tues 21st 7.00pm Choir Practice [No Parish Office this week]

Wed 22nd : No Eucharist this evening

Thurs 23rd: No Eucharist this morning

8.00pm Thursday Ladies' Club – to be confirmed

**Next Sunday The Feast of Christ the King**

**(26th Nov) 10.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Tea and Coffee:** will be served after this morning’s service. Do please join us.

**A big thank you:** to everyone who helped with the Fair yesterday.

**Messy Church:** will be held on Tuesday 28th at 3pm in school. We would value help as we are very short-handed. Please speak to Fr Michael this morning

**St Andrew’s Day: will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd December this year.** Please make a special effort to be here on our Special Day. We’d like to do refreshments after the service – if you can help, please have a word with Jenny.

**The Second Sunday before Advent 19th November 2017**

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

(All kneel)

Leader: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith:

With Christians down the ages, we pray that you will empower your Church to spread the good news to all people. Direct our hearts and minds in your way and help us to reveal your love to the world.

We pray for the missionary work of the Church, for all who serve overseas, and among them for those who work with USPG. Bless the Church in Uyo in Nigeria and encourage them in their mission and ministry.

We pray for Bishop Paul and all who serve here in Warrington.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Merciful Father, hear our prayers for all whose lives have been devastated by war or by natural disaster; for those working for a just and lasting peace and those providing humanitarian aid at this time. We think at this time of the people of Iran and Iraq, affected by the recent earthquake. We pray for the nations of the world, that they may be generous in supporting those in need at this time.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Father, we thank you for our Christmas Fair yesterday and for the opportunities to speak with those who supported us. May our conversations with them bear fruit and bring them closer to you.

Bless the church in this area, that with our brothers and sisters in other local churches, we may work with you for the coming of your kingdom.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Father, may your Son’s presence be known to all who are ill at this time and to those who care for them. We pray for Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington, Su Williams, Eleanor Moran, Carol Latimer, Kerrie Hadland, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman, Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Barbara Cook, Val Carter and Bill Lowson. Bring them the comfort and peace in their troubles.

Bless also those who care for them, those who worry about them, and those who have recently been bereaved.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, whose dominion extends over all life, hear our prayers for the faithful departed who have passed into your glorious kingdom, including Glenys Quiggley, Joan Gauton, Pat Wilcock and Barbara Lee. We pray too for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, remembering Doris Lee, Matt Morrow and Karen Shaw.

May your whole Church, living and departed, come to a joyful resurrection in the city of eternal light.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth, we join our prayers with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saints in glory.

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers,**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Second Sunday before Advent 19th November 2017**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.’ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated*) 571‘Soldiers of Christ, arise!’

**second reading on following page/**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Notes for Readers:**

**First Reading** Zephaniah 1:7.12-18

The prophet Zephaniah warns the people of the approaching day of the Lord.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We must not let the "Day of the Lord" take us by surprise. We are urged to prepare ourselves for it by the way we live and to encourage and support one another.

The sub-theme of the Gospel is the return of the Master at the end of time: coincidentally this reading leads up to it, by reminding us that we do not know when his day will come. But the reading is not about frightening people: Paul is telling his beloved Thessalonians that they have no need to fear, because they are children of the light and the day. Putting our lives in order should wash away fear, so that we can long for the coming of the Lord. There’s a very down-to-earth-ness about Paul today: he gives us illustrations of what he means that are very straightforward, especially the almost cynical line. It is when people are saying ‘How quiet it is’ that the worst suddenly happens... The two paragraphs give us a structure: first the warning, and then the reassurance. Aware of this, let your tone carry these ideas through the words Paul has written - especially bringing out his warmth of affection in the second paragraph.