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St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**24th December 2017**

**THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:** *(please stand)* 278 ‘Alleluia, sing to Jesus’

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.

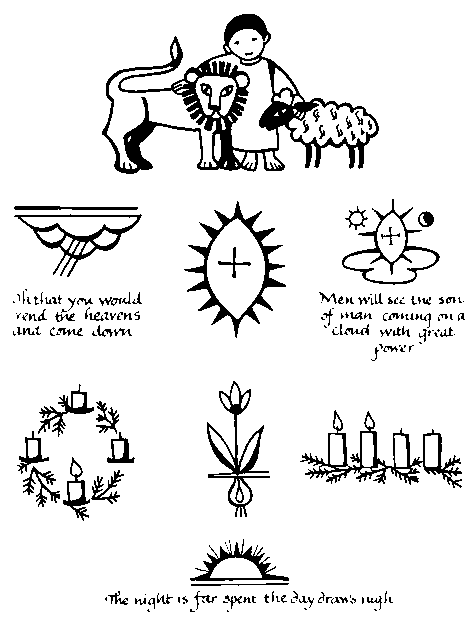
**Lighting the Advent Wreath – Mary, the Mother of our Lord**:

(please remain standing)

Priest: Jesus said, ‘Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.’

All: I am the servant of the Lord.

Let it be to me according to his word.



The fourth candle is lit and this response is used

Priest: Jesus is the light of the world

All: A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing (tune: Angel voices)

Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory ‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.

Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,

changed for gladness on that Day.

Mary’s gift, beyond all telling, was to give Christ room.

She gave God a human dwelling in a mother’s womb.

Who could guess the final story?

- cross and glory; empty tomb!

**Prayers of Penitence**

Reader: 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

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.

All *(sing):* 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.

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.**

Collect: God our Redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who 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 second book of Samuel** *(2 Sam 7. 1–11, 16)*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  35 ‘People look East. The time is near’

#### **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom 16. 25–27)*

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual hymn:** *(please stand)* ‘O Child of promise, come’

O Child of promise, come!

O come, Emmanuel!

Come, Prince of Peace, to David’s throne;

come, God, to dwell with us.

The Lord’s true servant, come,

in whom is his delight,

on whom his Holy Spirit rests,

the Gentiles’ promised light.

O come, Anointed One,

to show blind eyes your face!

Good tidings to the poor announce;

proclaim God’s year of grace!

O come, Messiah King,

to reign in endless light,

when heavenly peace at last goes forth

from Sion’s holy height.

##### THE GOSPEL

Priest: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Lk 1. 26–38)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Hymn:** 362 ‘Tell out my soul!’

##### the sermon

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 joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

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

Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us**

Please remember in your prayers:

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

***Monday:*** Patrick Hetherington

***Tuesday:*** Peggy Ralphs, Ken Hollingsworth

***Thursday:*** Stephen Lafferty

***Friday:*** David Sutcliffe (snr)

***Saturday:*** Frances Taylor, Emily Philburn, Mary Timothy

*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: 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **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:**  242 ‘The angel Gabriel from heaven came’

Eucharistic Prayer A *(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 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.

Priest: 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

All (sing): When we eat this bread and drink this cup

we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Priest 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.

*(sing)* Amen.

Priest: Looking for the coming of the kingdom, 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:

238 ‘For Mary, mother of our God’

39 ‘Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling’

**After Communion:**

Priest: Let us pray: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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 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. Amen

**Recessional Hymn:** 31 ‘Lo, he comes with clouds descending’

To a troubled world [All:] peace from Christ.

To a searching world [All:] love from Christ.

To a waiting world [All:] hope from Christ.

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

All: In the name of Christ. Amen

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Services and Notices for the coming week:

**Today:**  6.00pm Crib Service

**11.30pm Midnight Mass of the nativity**

**Christmas morning: 10.00am Family Communion with Carols**

Tues 26th: **St Stephen:** 10.30am Eucharist

Weds 27th: 11.30am Funeral of Hilda Smith

**Holy Innocents** 7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 28th **St John:** 10.30am Eucharist

**Next Sunday The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**(24th Dec) 10.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Advent 4 24th December 2017**

Priest: In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

(All kneel)

We pray that God may bring in his Kingdom with justice and mercy; for the Missionary work of the Church, and for the life and witness of the Church in this country.

Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray that God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness; and especially in Syria and Iraq, and for the leaders of the nations that they may rule with integrity and honour.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray that we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread; for all who will share the sacrament this Christmas and all who will worship you here.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray that you will bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen. We hold before you: 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, Bill Lowson, Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe and Jacqueline Willington

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray that the light of your coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death; for those who have passed into your closer presence including John Gleave, Hilda Smith who have died recently and Patrick Hetherington, David Sutcliffe (snr), Frances Taylor, Emily Philburn and Mary Timothy whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray that, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world.

Lord, hear us

**All: Lord, graciously hear us**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father,

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Advent 4 24th December 2017**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  35 ‘People look East. The time is near’

**second reading on following page/**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.