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St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**20th December 2020**

**Please wear a mask. Separate households must sit apart. Only the choir can sing. Keep social distances. Keep safe. At the end of the service please leave the building and talk outside.**

*All the responses will be said.*

*We welcome the Rev Pam Lovatt as our celebrant and preacher today*

**THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:****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

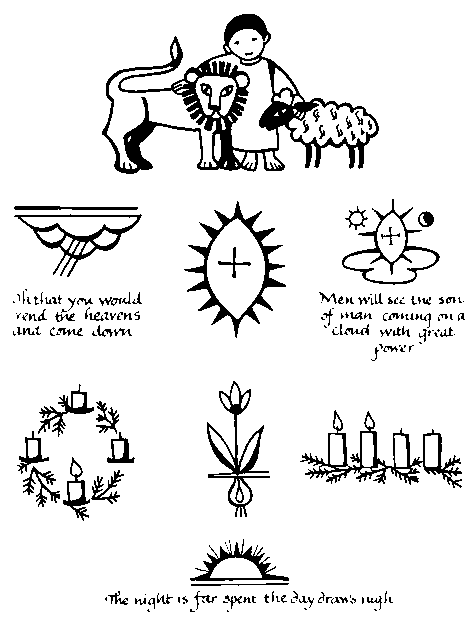
All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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.

**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 *:* Lord have mercy, Christ 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.

**Gradual hymn Sing Praise 14 ‘O Child of promise, come’**

*(After the hymn please stand for the Gospel)*

##### 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.

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.

##### 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:

*Your light shines in the darkness*

**[All:] and nothing can overcome it.**

Please remember in your prayers:

* **those who are ill :**  Marion Greatorex, Pauline Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Stringer, Joyce Crozier, Pete Harris, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw,
* Bob Timmis.
* **those who have died:** William Syers
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**:

***Sunday:*** Mary Brown

***Wednesday:*** Ron Craddock, Albert Cade

***Thursday:*** Jim Glover

***Friday:*** Patrick Hetherington

***Saturday:*** Ken Hollingsworth

*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 by waving or bowing or both*

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 : 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.

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.

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. Go up to the altar steps. Return by either side and not down the middle .Keep your mask on and remove to eat on the way back.

*During the distribution of the Sacrament, the following hymn is sung:*

**238 ‘For Mary, mother of our God’**

**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:

**25th Dec CHRISTMAS DAY Said service 10.00am**

**Next Sunday**

**27th Dec 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10.00am**

As long as Covid rules permit there will be a service each Sunday. If a priest is

available it will be a Eucharist otherwise it will be Morning Prayer.

A big thank you to all who have donated to the church through the envelope

scheme. Envelopes for 2021 are available at the back of church.

**Advent 4 20th December 2020**

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

(All kneel)

Eternal God, Word of life, your son Jesus brought light into the world. We pray for all people and places that seem to be in darkness, where hope is in short supply and life is hard.

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

We pray for all the places in the world where the coronavirus pandemic casts a long

shadow, for exhausted key-workers, sick patients and worried families .

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

We pray for people and families who are not looking forward to Christmas, those who are separated from their loved ones and don’t know when they will see them again, those who for a long time have had no one to spend Christmas with and those for whom the family home is a difficult or dangerous place.

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

We pray for people for whom unemployment and poverty make this an impossibly difficult time of year, for those who struggle to see light at the end of the tunnel and cling to the hope that next year might be better

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

We pray for those for whom sickness and suffering have clouded their joy including Marion Greatorex, Pauline Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Stringer, Joyce Crozier, Pete Harris, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw and Bob Timmis. We pray for those whose lives are darkened by depression or anxiety and for the families and friends who wait, watch and hope. We ask that all who suffer might experience your healing love.

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

We pray for those whose anniversary of death falls this week remembering especially Mary Brown, Ron Craddock, Albert Cade, Jim Glover, Patrick Hetherington and Ken Hollingsworth*.* Comfort those who mourn. Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Your light shines in the darkness …

**All:** **and nothing can overcome it**

Eternal God, Word of life, your son Jesus brought light into the world, bring that light into our lives this Christmas we pray and fill our hearts with love.

Amen

**Advent 4 20th December 2020**

**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.