

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

The Lord will come and not be slow

All: His footsteps cannot err.

Welcome to service for the fourth Sunday of Advent. As we continue to look forward to Christ's second coming, we begin our service today by lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. Over the last few weeks we have lit the candles reminding us of those who prepared for Christ's coming - the patriarchs, the prophets, and John the Baptist. Today we light the candle for the Blessed Virgin Mary, who said yes to God's call to bring God's son into our world. On Friday, Christmas Day, the centre candle will be lit reminding us of the Christ child, the light of the world. So, if you have a candle handy, do light it, as I light this one now, and pray:

Prayer over the Advent Wreath

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

All: Amen

Hymn: Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! (CP 26) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCrEtI I-SFU>

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is nigh," we hear it say.

"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

**2 Weakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**3 Lo, the Lamb so long expected
comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiven;**

**4 so when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**5 Honour, glory, might, blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run.**

Latin
Tr. Edward Casewell 1814-1878

Prayers of penitence

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

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect for Advent Sunday

Let us pray.

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

OT Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 – Alasdair McGregor

After the reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pliqObTHxUQ>

**1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as
flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

**2 'For know a blessed mother thou shalt
be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers
foretold,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!**

**3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her
head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy
name."
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!**

**4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

Tr. S. Baring-Gould

NT Reading: Romans 16:25-end – John/Didee Acworth

After the reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: Mary did you Know <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aulm6iE9hSk>

**Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God
Oh, Mary did you know**

**The blind will see, The deaf will hear
The dead will live again, The lame will leap
The dumb will speak, The praises of the lamb**

**Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all Creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your Baby Boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am!**

Mark Lowry 1958 -

Gospel Luke 1:26-38 – Roger Hammond

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ

Sermon - Rev Diana Hammond

Affirmation of faith

We say together in faith

All: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All: For by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain,

All: For with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All: The Spirit and the Bride say "Come!" Even so, come, Lord Jesus

(cf Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.7, 20)

Intercessions – Rev Robin Hungerford

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting for his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence to the Father, 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.

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us wave our peace to one another

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **All: Amen**

Hymn O Jesus, I have Promised https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU_cev2ri90

**I O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.**

**2 O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.**

**3. O let me see thy footmarks
And in them plant mine own
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone
O, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end
And then in heaven receive me
My Saviour and my Friend
J.E. Bode 1816-1874**

Dismissal

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

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.