

We join together, both those at St Luke's, and those at home using the internet or telephone

If you are at home, find somewhere comfortable, light a candle, and connect to our service via Zoom on the internet (<https://zoom.us/j/7210725462>) or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462). Contact the Parish Office for the password. Follow the order of service below.

Gathering as God's people

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

Hymn: O come, O come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

O come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

O come, Thou key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

*Anon. Latin 12th C
tr. John Mason Neale*

Advent Candle Liturgy

We light the second candle of Advent.

We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

We have sought such a God, both mighty and tender.

Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd; feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock.

This Advent, we seek such a God.

Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

Hymn: Light one candle

Light one candle for hope,
one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart.
He comes! He comes!

Natalie Sleeth

The Ministry of the Word

Prayer for the day

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Children's ministry

Prayer before the reading of scripture

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us
and showing the way of salvation
through faith in your Son.

We ask you now to teach and encourage us
through your word,
so that we may be ready to serve you;
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn: Jesus, name above all names

Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord;
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Naida Hearn

© 1974, 1979 *Scripture in Song/Integrity's Hosanna! Music/
Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

Gospel reading: Mark 1:1-8

The Sermon

***Music for reflection : Prepare ye the way of the
Lord***

The Apostles Creed

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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there 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.

The Ministry of Prayer

We pray for the church and the world.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Confession of sin

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden
in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the
heart.

A pause for reflection

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to
him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Greeting of peace

Friends, while you are waiting for the day of God,
strive to be found at peace by him.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please say hello to everyone!

The Offertory

Hymn: There's a light upon the mountains

There's a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty
and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting,
and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking,
and we hail it with a song.

In the fading of the starlight
we can see the coming morn;
and the lights of men are paling
in the splendours of the dawn:
for the eastern skies are glowing
as with light of hidden fire,
and the hearts of men are stiffing
with the throbs of deep desire.

Hark, we hear a distant music,
and it comes with fuller swell
the great triumph song of Jesus,
of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him;
and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest
for the triumph of our King!

Henry Burton 1840-1930

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Thanksgiving for offered gifts

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to
share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

...and to remember all he has done for us:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of bread and the Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Communion is shared

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.

Post Communion Prayer

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

The sending out of God's people

Notices

Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden.
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes, when he comes.

who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!.....

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!.....

Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Sone of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes.
we will make him welcome.*

*Frederick Pratt Green
words by permission Stainer & Bell, London*

Blessing

The Lord comes to you this day in great power: he comes as a shepherd to care for his flock; he comes to heal, to restore, to forgive, to bring you home; he comes to you; and the blessing... Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen