

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

Hymn: Light of the world

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of my life spent with You
*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days
Oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
So here I am to worship...

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
So here I am to worship...

*Tim Hughes
© 2000 Thankyou Music*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Advent Candle Liturgy

We gather in the season of Advent, waiting and watching for the One who comes not in splendour, but in humility. The God of the universe has changed addresses—leaving heaven's throne to dwell among us in a manger. This is grace: not earned, not expected, but freely given.

We light the candle of Joy, rejoicing in the fact that God's address is now among us.

The third candle is lit

Jesus, you chose to be born among our mess, not **our perfection. Let your joy rise in us, even when things seem unfinished.**

Hymn: Deep in darkness (vv. 1-3)

Deep in darkness we begin,
dark outside and deep within.
Now ignite a single flame,
shadows form, let light remain.

As they gleaned the word of life,
narrative of love and strife,
people through each age have known
yet more light: God's glory shown.

John the Baptist spoke out loud,
challenged that discordant crowd,
called each one toward the light,
see it growing, gleaming bright.

*Andrew E Pratt (born 1948)
Words © 2003 Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England*

God of joy, surprise us again in your presence. Let **your Incarnation awaken laughter, song and celebration in our souls. Amen .**

The Ministry of the Word

Prayer for the day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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: James 5:7-10

Hymn: Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord,
all ye servants of the Lord,
who stand by night
in the house of the Lord;

lift up your hands

in the holy place,
come, bless the Lord,
come, bless the Lord.

from Psalm 134

Gospel reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Reflection Music

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

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

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

There's a hush of expectation,
and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving
in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus
is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit
is the travail of his own.

He is breaking down the barriers,
he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels
to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human,
not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army
are the heart-beats of our love.

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

Methodist Publishing House UK.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Loving God,...

Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that when we turned

Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that on the cross...

Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

We thank that when Jesus shall come again...

Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels,
we rejoice and praise you, 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.

...in songs of never-ending praise:

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God...

Communion is shared

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: Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah,
declaring the word of the Lord:
and these are the days of Your servant Moses,
righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
of famine and darkness and sword,
still we are a voice in the desert crying,
'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.'

*Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
**lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
out of Zion's hill salvation comes.***

These are the days of Ezekiel,
the dry bones becoming as **f**lesh;
and these are the days of Your servant David,
rebuilding the temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
the **f**ields are as white as the world,
and we are the labourers in the vineyard,
declaring the word of the Lord.

Behold He comes riding on the clouds...

These are the days of Isaiah,
foretelling the birth of our Lord.
and these are the days of Your servant Jesus—
Redeemer, Immanuel, Word.
His days to bring healing and wholeness,
to preach the Good News to the poor;
now risen, ascended and reigning,
our Saviour and life evermore!

Behold He comes riding on the clouds...

Robin Mark

*© Song Solutions Daybreak
and June Nicholson (verse 3)*

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and
make you ready to meet him when he comes in
glory; And the blessing... Amen

Dismissal

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