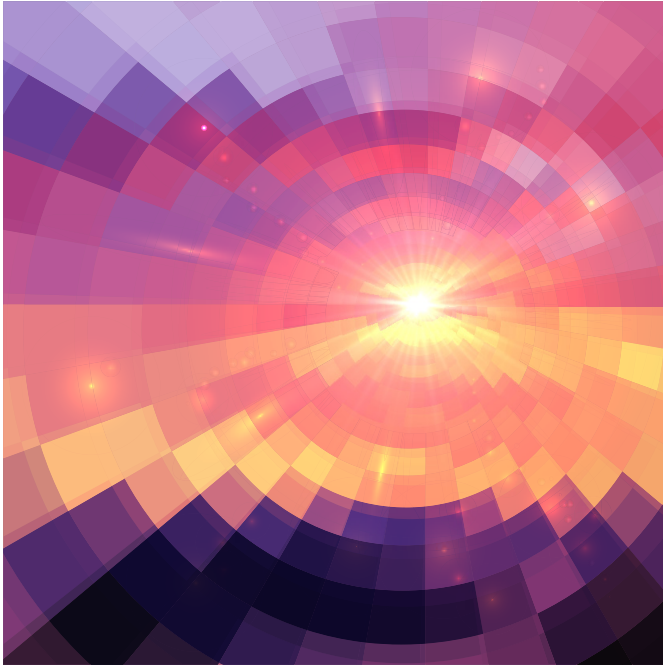


ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



Celtic Holy Communion for Advent

First Sunday of Advent

29th November 2020

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To you shall come Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel
Captivum solve Israel
Qui gemit in exilio
Privatus Dei Filio
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel
Nascetur pro te, Israel

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel
Nascetur pro te, Israel

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel
Nascetur pro te, Israel

Trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light the first candle of Advent
in the circle of God's eternity,
a circle as green as the earth
where Jesus came to live with us

We light the first candle of Advent
to celebrate the prophets,
who waited long and looked with
expectancy
for the coming of the Messiah

We light the first candle of advent for
ourselves
for we, too, wait with expectancy
for the coming of God's kingdom
and the reign of Christ the King.

Welcome

Preparation

In the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Spirit Holy,
Three in One:

**God make us holy,
Christ make us holy,
Spirit make us holy,
Three all-holy.**

Silence

**Awaken us to your presence,
Alert us to your love,
Affirm us in your peace.
Open to us your way,
Reveal to us your joy,
Enfold us in your light.
For our hearts are ready.
Lord, my heart is ready.**

Penitence

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.

Silence

**Count us not as nothing, O God,
count us not as nothing, O Christ,
count us not as nothing, O kind Spirit,
nor abandon us to eternal loss.**

**We confess our sins to you,
Father, Son, and Spirit Holy.
Compassionate God of life,
your kindly pardon give:
for our careless talk,
our broken oath,
our empty speech;
for all that we have left undone,
for all that we have done amiss.**

**Jesus, only-begotten Son
and Lamb of God the Father,
you gave the blood of your body
to save us from the grave.
As we receive the Word
and knowledge of your forgiveness,
enshield us, encircle us,
each day, each night,
each dark, each light.
Uphold us, be our treasure,
our triumph everlasting;
strong Son of God most high.
Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and
forgiveness draw us to himself, and
cleans us from all our sins that we may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**May this eternal truth be always on our
hearts,
that the God who breathed this world
into being,
placed stars into the heavens and
designed a butterfly's wing,**

**is the God who entrusted his life to the
care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the power of Love.
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to
ignore. Amen.**

The Collect

**Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of
God as it comes to us in the reading of
Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and
peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, for in
every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind – just as the testimony of Christ has
been strengthened among you – so that
you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you
to the end, so that you may be blameless
on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God
is faithful; by him you were called into
the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord.

This is the Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Gospel Reading

Mark 13.24-37

Let us greet the Gospel of Christ.

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Address

Affirmation of Faith

**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:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
**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:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17,20

Prayers

Response:

Lord, we are watching and waiting,
Come to us now, we pray.

Sacrament

The Peace

The Holy One comes to you in peace and love, that you may increase and abound in love.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Waiting in silence,
waiting in hope,
we are your people,
we long for you, Lord.
God, ever with us,
Emmanuel.
Come Lord Jesus.
Maranatha!

Waiting in silence,
waiting in hope,
we are your people,
we trust in your love.
O Sun of Justice,
true Prince of Peace,
Come with your justice, Lord.
Maranatha!

Waiting in silence,
waiting in hope,
we are your people,
Lord, we seek your truth.
Wisdom Incarnate,
teach us your way;
Show us the path of life.
Maranatha!

Waiting in silence,
waiting in hope,
we are your people,
we long for new life.
O Key of David,
open our hearts.
Give us new vision, Lord.
Maranatha!

Waiting in silence,
waiting in hope,
we are your people,
our hearts thirst for you.
Flower of Jesse,
bloom in our midst.
Make us your garden, Lord.
Maranatha!
Make us your garden, Lord.
Maranatha!

Carey Landry

Offertory Prayer

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth, for by the breath of
your mouth you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and
placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your
covenant of grace. You gave your people
the law and taught us by your prophets to
look for your reign of justice, mercy and
peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom
on earth, we echo the song of the angels
in heaven, evermore 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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he 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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The table is set, the feast is now ready, let all find a place in God's love.

We break this bread remembering the brokenness of the world;
Yes, we will remember.

We raise this cup celebrating these signs of God's presence among us;
Yes, we celebrate God's love.

Invitation

The table is set, the feast is now ready,
let all find a place in God's love.

Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Generous God,
set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for
ever. Amen.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

Restore, O Lord,
The honour of your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears your name.
And in your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, he is reigning here.

Restore, O Lord,
The honour of your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Graham Kendrick (b 1950) and Chris Rolinson (b 1958)

The Blessing

**Lord, you have welcomed us,
you have healed us,
you have restored us,
you have fed us,
you have empowered us.
Send us out to live and work to your glory.
Send us out to reveal your presence.
Send us out to declare your love.
Send us out to proclaim your goodness.**

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.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

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Preparation

'In the name of ...' From The Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland (Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press), © 1994, Panel on Worship of the Church of Scotland.

'Awaken us to ...' David Adam, 1994, p17 (altered).

Penitence

'Count us not ...' From The Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland - as above.

'May this eternal truth ...' John Birch, 'Celtic Advent Liturgies', faithandworship.com, 2016.

Sacrament

'The Holy One ...' David Adam, *Glimpses of Glory* (London: SPCK, 2000), p6.

'The table is set ...' Dilly Baker, p50.

Dismissal

'Lord, you have ...' David Adam, 1994, p101.

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