



Chet Valley Churches



Advent Sunday

Holy Communion

28th November 2021

The Greeting

The Lord be with you here **and also with you.**

Advent Ring

We have this Advent ring to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

Lord, let your light scatter the darkness. And fill the world with your glory.

We light this first candle to remind us of God's people who, in every age, watch for his coming.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

♪ Hymn: *I Cannot Tell*

**I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
Should set his love upon the human race,
Or why, as shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back, within the fold of grace.**

**But this I know, that he was born of Mary
When Beth'lem's manger was his only home,
And that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, has come.**

**I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
As with his peace he graced this place of tears,
Or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.**

**But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted
And stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
For still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.**

**I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When at his bidding every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When every heart with love and joy is filled.**

**But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'**

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**



May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading: *1 Thessalonians 3:9-end*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

♪ Chant: *Wait for the Lord*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.**



📖 Gospel Reading: *Luke 21:25-36*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk [Rev David]

This year, as I prepare for Christmas, I’m using a collection of devotions put together by David Cole, also known as Brother Cassian, who is deputy Guardian for the Community of Aidan and Hilda. Using a Celtic approach to the season the devotions begin 40 days before Christmas—so, having begun on 15th November, I’m already part way into the book!

So far it has taken me on several “adventures”. Some of them I was aware of; others I have needed to embark on in my head. I don’t know about you but sometimes words or names that are so familiar snap back and make you think. I was brought up in a suburb of Chester called Blacon, or to give it its full name: Blacon cum Crabwell—where Crabwell is or was I have no idea. On many an occasion when asked how to spell Blacon I resorted to saying it was bacon but with an “l” as the second letter, but I always wondered why people even asked, because for me it was obvious. The same can be said about “Advent”. For most of us it’s obvious. It begins on Advent Sunday and then it’s that period until Christmas Day or perhaps as noted on most Advent Calendars it begins on 1st December when the first door is opened and the picture/chocolate/diamond (yes, I’ve seen that if you have £100,000 there is a particular jeweller offering a Diamond Advent Calendar) is found.

But what of Advent? Since today is Advent Sunday. And with it the beginning of the Church’s year. The word comes from the Latin for “coming” or “arrival” a time of acknowledging the preparation for the coming of The Christ. For the Celtic church—the ancient church of Britain and Ireland—Brother Cassian writes that the season of Advent was referred to as “the lesser Lent” and that they believed that the period of preparation was extremely important. During this season it is traditionally believed that there was a focus on the three comings of Christ. The incarnation at Christmas; the coming of Christ into the lives of those who sought to follow Him; and the return of Christ at the end of all things.

In each of these aspects there is a profound sense of waiting and expectancy. As those who know me are very well aware I am quite an impatient soul. If something is to happen then I want it to happen now. Therefore, the concept of waiting can be an anathema. Yet there are things that just can’t be rushed, nor should they. Birth is one of them. The gestation period is the time required for the unborn to develop and during that period what is unseen to the naked eye is forming and growing. Humanly speaking, as a father there is little direct evidence of this—other than the visible growth of the mother! But for the mother there is an intimate physical involvement. During this waiting period there needs to be a proper time for both activity and rest. Activity is required to prepare for the event to come, rest to ensure that there is sufficient energy for the task ahead.

The most productive way to prepare for any task we are reminded is through prayer. There are many stories from the Celtic saints of them spending time, often days, in prayer prior to embarking on a task. We too are encouraged to do the same—perhaps we won't spend whole days, but we should set our hearts and minds in the right direction and that can only be done by spending time in prayer and in doing so we can hold on to the words of St Paul to the Colossian church: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom." (Colossians 3:15-16a)

In this season of Advent, as we wait to recall the first coming of the Christ-child, we too can grow in faith and be transformed. We too can pray for the Kingdom to come amongst us as we experience Christ in us. We too can recognise the ultimate return of Christ at the Second Coming. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times, we pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness.
Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world.

Father, by your Spirit, **bring in your kingdom.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Lord of the Church

**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the day-spring 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.

♪ Hymn: Restore O Lord

**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.**

Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God,
who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.



Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, 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.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father, your Son Jesus Christ has come to us in word and Spirit, in bread and cup. Make us holy and bring us to perfection, when we stand before him as he comes to judge the living and the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: *Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending*

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.**



**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

The Dismissal

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

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

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy;
and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy Spirit be you and
those whom you love now and always. **Amen.**

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

