



Easthampstead
Parish Church

Advent

Introduction to the season

Advent is a season of expectations and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation.

The Church also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement.

The commercial pressures in the run up to Christmas can make it hard to sustain a sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha'- 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22)

Advent falls at the darkest time of the year and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath or ring was imported into Britain from Northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice

Our website:

www.stmichaelseasthampstead.org.uk



Order of Service

Please stand as ministers, servers and choir process into the church.

OPENING HYMN

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please be seated. The presiding minister will begin the service with some words of welcome and any notices are given.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Candle is lit.

Each of the five candles on the Advent ring has a different meaning:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Advent 1 | <i>The Patriarchs</i> |
| Advent 2 | <i>The Prophets</i> |
| Advent 3 | <i>John the Baptist</i> |
| Advent 4 | <i>The Virgin Mary</i> |

The president will say a prayer as the candle is lit to which all reply:

All Amen.

A song may be sung, which can be found on the weekly insert.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord
in penitence and faith.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

As a petition for God's forgiveness and in thankfulness for what God has done, is doing and will continue to do, the choir will sing:

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,**

**Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,**

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

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

All Amen.

THE COLLECT PRAYER

The Collect is said and all respond.

All Amen.

THE READING

Please be seated.

A reading from the bible will follow. At the end of the reading, the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM OR CANTICLE

Please stand.

*The Psalm or Canticle will be sung.
This can be found on the daily insert.*

THE GOSPEL READING

The Gospel will be processed to the centre of the Church. Please remain standing and turn to face the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

All ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

All ♪ Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read, after which the minister will say

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All ♪ Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

This response is used at the end of each prayer.

Maranatha

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

This response may be used after remembering those who have died.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
All and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace,
All and rise in glory.

At the end of the intercessions this response is used.

Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring 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.
All And also with you.
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN



During the hymn a collection will be taken. You can make a one off donation or regular contribution through the Parish Giving Scheme. You can access the scheme through the QR code below.



Any amount you can give will make a difference. The gifts of the people are presented during the hymn. The altar will also be prepared, with the gift of bread and wine placed upon it.



PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please be seated

The Lord be with you

All ♪ and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All ♪ It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, ending with the words

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

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

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and

blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All ♪ Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Michael, St Mary Magdalene, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All ♪ Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught, so together we pray
**All 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.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

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

**All ♪ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion is distributed at the Chancel Steps. All who usually receive Communion in their home church are welcome to do so here. If you wish to receive a blessing instead please carry your hymn book.

If you are sensitive to gluten, we do have gluten free wafers.

COMMUNION HYMN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The post-Communion prayer is said and all respond.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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.

All Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

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

All ♪ In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers, servers and choir will process out of the church.

*Refreshments will be served
in the annexe.*

*Don't forget to turn your
mobile devices back on.*

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