

## Service of Morning Prayer.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent

### The Gathering of God's People

*Welcome everyone by Revd Grant.*

*Let's prepare ourselves...*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**All and also with you.**



Praise God!  
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!

**All Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.**

Our Lord says, 'Surely I come quickly'

**All Even so: come, Lord Jesus**

cf Revelation 19:6&7, 22:20

Over the coming weeks, we will sing the Hymn 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' The tune, captures the mood of longing. It is not the same as the exuberant "Joy to the world, the Lord has come," or the vigorous and bounding, "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King." The music matches the mood of the song. Longing. Aching. Yearning. Hoping.

The Christian life swings between these two poles: the overflowing joy of the "already" redeemed (in him we have redemption as Paul writes in Ephesians 1) and the tearful yearning of the "not-yet" redeemed ('the day of redemption' is still to come as Paul also writes in Ephesians 4). And we do not ever leave the one or the other in this life. We are "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing".

Blood has been *shed*, forgiveness *purchased*, adoption *secured*, the future *is sure*, the joy is *great*, but the end is not yet. Calamity hits. Sickness plagues. Sin still works within us. We still wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the longing continues...  
It is good to have Christmas carols that capture both dimensions of life. (*from John Piper*).

## Opening Hymn – O come O come Emmanuel

### The Beatitudes

Through Advent we listen to the Beatitudes. Let us hear the characteristics and witness of the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,  
**for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
**for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they shall obtain mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Let us confess our many failures to keep this way of truth and life. *Silence to reflect...*

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**All Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

cf Psalm 51

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins.  
Heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,

**All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**All and in our song will we praise our God.**

*We continue in prayer...*

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,  
To you be praise and glory forever.  
In your tender compassion  
The dawn from on high is breaking upon us  
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.  
As we look for your coming among us this day,  
Open our eyes to behold your presence  
And strengthen our hands to do your will,  
That where we live, and our world,  
may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Proclaiming and Receiving the Word**

**Psalm 119** : we have been reading through this psalm these past weeks. We now come to the final verses.

**7 Resh**

153 Look on my suffering and deliver me,  
for I have not forgotten your law.

154 Defend my cause and redeem me;  
preserve my life according to your promise.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked,  
for they do not seek out your decrees.

156 Your compassion, Lord, is great;  
preserve my life according to your laws.

157 Many are the foes who persecute me,  
but I have not turned from your statutes.

158 I look on the faithless with loathing,  
for they do not obey your word.

159 See how I love your precepts;  
preserve my life, Lord, in accordance with your love.

160 All your words are true;  
all your righteous laws are eternal.

**8 Sin and Shin**

161 Rulers persecute me without cause,  
but my heart trembles at your word.

162 I rejoice in your promise  
like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and detest falsehood  
but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous laws.

165 Great peace have those who love your law,  
and nothing can make them stumble.

166 I wait for your salvation, Lord,  
and I follow your commands.

167 I obey your statutes,  
for I love them greatly.

168 I obey your precepts and your statutes,  
for all my ways are known to you.

**9 Taw**

169 May my cry come before you, Lord;  
give me understanding according to your word.

170 May my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.

171 May my lips overflow with praise,  
for you teach me your decrees.

172 May my tongue sing of your word,  
for all your commands are righteous.

173 May your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, Lord,  
and your law gives me delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise you,  
and may your laws sustain me.

176 I have strayed like a lost sheep.  
Seek your servant,  
for I have not forgotten your commands.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.**

**NT** : Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Song**

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

*We will say this Canticle, during Advent,*

### **A Song of the Spirit** *(please join in bold parts)*

**1** 'Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord,  
'and bringing my reward with me,  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

**2** 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.'

**3** Blessed are those who do God's  
commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life,  
and may enter into the city through the gates.

**4** 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you,  
with this testimony for all the churches.

**5** 'I am the root and the offspring of David,  
I am the bright morning star.'

**6** 'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride;  
'Come!' let each hearer reply!

**7** Come forward, you who are thirsty,  
let those who desire take the water of life as a  
gift.

*Revelation 22:12-14, 16, 17*

Surely I am coming soon!  
**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

### **Sermon**



### **Song**

#### **The Apostles Creed** *(we stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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 Prayers of the People**

Let us pray

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**



## **Offertory Prayer for gifts to All Saints**

Gracious God

Accept our financial gifts,  
and with them our lives,  
to be used in your service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Collects**

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.**

Lord,

When we see all the problems that we face,  
Help us to discover the opportunities that lie  
within.

When we have more questions than answers,  
Help us to respond in faith and not in fear.

When we are crippled by doubt and indecision,  
Shine your light into our lives and illuminate our  
thinking.

Were we struggle to see the path ahead,  
Help us to learn to follow one step at a time.  
When we feel weary and discouraged  
Remind us of your call to follow.  
When we fear what the future might hold,  
Help us to trust in your love. **Amen.**

*Bring our prayers and praises to a close,  
we sing together...*

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Going out as God's People**

### **Announcements**

*All Saints celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday next Sunday –  
20<sup>th</sup> December... that will form a theme within  
our worship service next week.*

*Next week – just online –  
will be our Carols and Lessons service.*

### *About the Christmas Crib Service:*

*"This year there will be another All Saints  
Christmas Crib Service! Sunday 20<sup>nd</sup> December,  
we start at 4.00pm until 5.15pm. It will be held at  
the Kosmik. A special gathering intended for  
children as we celebrate the birth of Christ.  
Because of all the restrictions due to the Corona  
virus it will be slightly different to previous years.  
Children age 4 up to 12 (basisschool) are  
welcome for a gathering with songs, bible  
reading, a creative aspect and some snacks. Also,  
children are welcome to play an instrument or  
perform otherwise!*

Please let the organisers know! Parents are  
welcome to drop off their children off at the  
Kosmik at 4pm and to pick them up at 5:15pm.  
We, Annemarie, Eline, Hanna CE and Sara will be  
organising it and we will look after the children.  
In case there are any questions or things we need  
to know about your children, you can reach out  
to one of us. If you want your child to attend,  
please sign in via the list Lici soon will share on  
the app. We are looking forward meeting your  
children Sunday 20 Dec at 4 pm at the Kosmik!"

### **Final Song**



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

### **Blessing and End of Service**

May God himself, the God of peace,  
sanctify you through and through  
and keep you safe and blameless,  
in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it

and the blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen!  
cf I Thess 5:23

*During Advent we end in a different way, using a  
response for this season...*

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

To know more about All Saints, please visit  
[www.allsaintsamersfoort.nl](http://www.allsaintsamersfoort.nl)

You can also follow us on our Facebook page '[All  
Saints Anglican Church](#)' or on Twitter  
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To find out more about the other Anglican  
Churches in the Netherlands. <http://anglican.nl/>

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