

Service of Morning Prayer.

Sunday 6th December Advent Sunday

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.'

This translation of an anonymous Latin hymn doubles as a prayer for the first and second coming of Christ. It takes us into the mind of old Israel, longing for the first coming of the Messiah. And it goes beyond that longing by voicing the yearning of the church of Christ for the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to consummate the history of redemption.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we put ourselves in the shoes of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, and all the pre-Christian saints. We ponder the promises. We strain to see the dawn of salvation. But we know that when it comes, the waiting will not be over. When Emmanuel arrives — when the Dayspring rises — we learn that redemption has only begun. In the return of Christ, the consummation of redemption will come!
(words from a John Piper article)

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

Ⲯ Ayin

121 I have done what is righteous and just;
do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Ensure your servant's well-being;
do not let the arrogant oppress me.
123 My eyes fail, looking for your salvation,
looking for your righteous promise.
124 Deal with your servant according to your love
and teach me your decrees.

125 I am your servant; give me discernment
that I may understand your statutes.
126 It is time for you to act, Lord;
your law is being broken.
127 Because I love your commands
more than gold, more than pure gold,
128 and because I consider all your precepts
right,
I hate every wrong path.

Ⲓ Pe

129 Your statutes are wonderful;
therefore I obey them.

130 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant,
longing for your commands.
132 Turn to me and have mercy on me,
as you always do to those who love your name.

133 Direct my footsteps according to your word;
let no sin rule over me.
134 Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may obey your precepts.
135 Make your face shine on your servant
and teach me your decrees.
136 Streams of tears flow from my eyes,
for your law is not obeyed.

Ⲩ Tsadhe

137 You are righteous, Lord,
and your laws are right.
138 The statutes you have laid down are
righteous;
they are fully trustworthy.
139 My zeal wears me out,
for my enemies ignore your words.
140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested,
and your servant loves them.

141 Though I am lowly and despised,
I do not forget your precepts.
142 Your righteousness is everlasting
and your law is true.
143 Trouble and distress have come upon me,
but your commands give me delight.
144 Your statutes are always righteous;
give me understanding that I may live.

Ⲓ Qoph

145 I call with all my heart; answer me, Lord,
and I will obey your decrees.
146 I call out to you; save me
and I will keep your statutes.
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I have put my hope in your word.
148 My eyes stay open through the watches of
the night,
that I may meditate on your promises.

149 Hear my voice in accordance with your love;
preserve my life, Lord, according to your laws.
150 Those who devise wicked schemes are near,
but they are far from your law.
151 Yet you are near, Lord,
and all your commands are true.
152 Long ago I learned from your statutes
that you established them to last for ever.

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 40:1-11 (Linda)
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Song

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8
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 John Harris.

*I welcome John Harris, a member of All Saints,
who works for the mission organization
International Teams, to come and preach this
morning...*



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 (Stefan)

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

We ran Alpha twice this year. We will run Alpha once again this coming January. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite people you have been praying for, to come along and try it out. It will run between January and Easter, but people do not need to commit to all of it – they can come along to the first session and decide week by week.

December Charitable giving will go to the Diocese in Europe Bishop's Advent Appeal. More info in our email newsletter – which we also post in our Church Whatsapp Group.

Bishop Robert shares

“My Advent Appeal this year is to urge your support for the work the Anglican Communion Fund is doing to alleviate the ravaging impact of Covid-19 in the poorest parts of the world. The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) is making a difference on the ground to people who are suffering every day, the human cost of this pandemic.

Can you make a donation?”

Final Song

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

You can also follow us on our Facebook page '[All Saints Anglican Church](#)' or on Twitter [@CofEAmersfoort](#).

To find out more about the other Anglican Churches in the Netherlands. <http://anglican.nl/>

To know more about the Church of England here in Europe - the Diocese in Europe website is - <https://europe.anglican.org/>

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DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

