

# Parish of St Laurence, Northfield

## Holy Communion during Advent

*According to Order 1 in Common Worship*



**St Laurence**  
*Northfield*



Hearing loop available



Please: no photography or recording  
during worship



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

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BIRMINGHAM

# Welcome

The Sacrament of Communion is placed at the centre of church life at St Laurence Church.



In celebrating Holy Communion together we obey Jesus' command to 'do this in remembrance of me'. Those who are baptized in any Christian Church and whose practice is to receive Holy Communion are welcome to receive at this service. Alternatively, anyone is welcome to receive a blessing.

St Laurence Church has a toilet with baby-changing facilities. It is situated beyond the choir vestry; children **must always** be accompanied by an adult if they enter the vestry area. If you struggle with steps it may be easier to approach the toilet from the outside door – please ask a church warden for help.



Like any charity we are dependent upon donations and fundraising in order to function. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of this church you can donate in several ways.

- By cash in the collection plate or donation box. If you pay tax please place it in a Gift Aid envelope (yellow) and complete your details
- Making an e-donation using a credit or debit card
- And BEST OF ALL by making a regular donation through the Parish Giving Scheme.....

You can do this on-line please visit [www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk) or telephone 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday between 9am - 5pm. you will need this information

Church/Parish Name: **Northfield St Laurence**  
PGS Parish Code: **020602050**

# Holy Communion in Advent

## Introduction

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and 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:

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty.      (*Charles Wesley*)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent.

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (*1 Corinthians 16.22*). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season 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 was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice.



The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

*Common Worship, Times and Seasons, p33*

## Welcome

A *Hymn* may be sung



*Please remain standing if you feel able*

**All    † In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

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

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,  
**All    for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**  
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,  
**All    for the night is far spent.**  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light,  
**All    for the day is at hand.**



### Advent I

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

**Help us, in preparing to celebrate his birth, to  
make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to  
make his home among us. We ask this through  
Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.  
Amen.**



## Advent 2

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom.

**Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.**



## Advent 3

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

**Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.**



## Advent 4

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy.

**Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.**



## Confession and Absolution

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

*Silence for reflection on the past*

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.



**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought, in what we have said and  
done, through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love and marred your image  
in us. We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from  
darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*We say or sing the **Kyries***



*Sung*

**Kyrie, eleison**

**Christe, eleison**

**Kyrie, eleison**

*Said*

**Lord have mercy**

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon † you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Collect** (*Special Prayer for this service*)

Let us pray (*remain standing*)

*At the end we all say **Amen***



## The Liturgy of the Word

### **Bible Reading(s)**

*At the end the reader may say*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God**



A **Hymn** may be sung



### **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand if you feel able*

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, **Alleluia.**

*cf Revelation 1.17,18*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**All Glory to you, O Lord**

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



## **Sermon**

*The sermon will be followed by a short time of silence*

## **Apostles' Creed**

*Please stand if you feel able*

Let us profess our faith together

**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**



# Prayers of Intercession

In hope and joy let us pray to the Father

*Please sit or kneel*

*The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

*The Church of Christ*

*Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

*The local community*

*Those who suffer*

*The communion of saints*



*These or other responses may be used*

All      Lord, in your mercy      or      Maranatha  
            **hear our prayer**                              **Come Lord Jesus**

# The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All      **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.**



## 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.

*cf Luke 1.78,79*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Preparation of the Table

during which a **Hymn** may be sung



*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

*Please remain standing if able*



As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

*Or*

God our sustainer, receive the gifts we bring before you, and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

*(Eucharist means Thanksgiving)*

*(Prayer B)*

The Lord is here

All **His Spirit is with us**

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.**



It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

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 *saying/singing*

Or

Living God, Father of light, Hope of nations, Friend of sinners, Builder of the city that is to come:

your love is made visible in Jesus Christ, you bring home the lost, restore the sinner and give dignity to the despised.

In the face of Jesus Christ your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one a divided and broken humanity.

With people from every race and nation, with the Church of all the ages, with apostles, evangelists and martyrs we join the angels of heaven in their unending song:

All

**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.**



*mf*

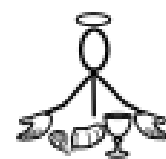
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav'n\_ and earth\_\_\_ are full\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blest is he who comes in the name\_ of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;



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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and  
resurrection you have set us  
free. You are the Saviour  
of the world.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole  
world;



rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.



As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.



Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in  
the company of Laurence and all the saints, may praise and  
glorify you for ever, through 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 Sanctus Bell is rung



## The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.



**All** **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

We sit or kneel to say or sing the Agnus Dei



**All** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*mp*

1.2. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

SOPR. DESCANT

*mf*

3. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

grant us peace.

*Slower*

sins \_\_\_\_\_ of the world: grant us \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

*This prayer may be said*

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**



## **Giving of Holy Communion**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president and people receive communion.  
If you are baptized (christened) and want to grow closer to God  
you are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*Alternatively, everyone is welcome to receive an individual blessing.*

*We receive the bread into outstretched hands. If you would like to  
receive wine please do so by taking a sip from the chalice. This is  
now the ONLY way to receive wine*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the person  
administering the bread.*

*This is a very holy time so please keep conversation to a minimum (though we  
appreciate this is not easy with tiny children.) Hymns may be sung please  
join in. The hymn numbers are on the board to the left of the eagle  
lectern.*



To indicate that  
you would like to  
receive a blessing



**The Advent Antiphons** *may be used for personal reflection during the administration of Holy Communion*

These ancient antiphons, or refrains, all beginning 'O ... ', were sung before and after the Magnificat at Vespers on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve. They are addressed to God, calling for him to come as teacher and deliverer, with a tapestry of scriptural titles and pictures that describe his saving work in Christ. The hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' is based on them.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*cf Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1*

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

*cf Exodus 3.2, 24.12*

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

*cf Isaiah 11.10, 45.14, 52.15; Romans 15.12*

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

*cf Isaiah 22.22, 42.7*

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

*cf Malachi 4.2*

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

*cf Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14*

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

~

*cf Isaiah 7.14*



## Post Communion Prayers

Let us pray: -

*The priest may say the post-communion prayer followed by*

*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

### The Notices and Banns of Marriage

*Please stand for*

### The Blessing

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.**



A **Hymn** may be sung



## The Dismissal

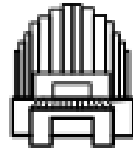
Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.  
Amen.**



*An organ voluntary is usually played*

*Refreshments are often served after the  
mid-morning Sunday service.*

*All welcome.*

*There is no charge but smiles and donations are welcome!*

*PLEASE keep a close eye on your children after the service and, so as to keep everyone safe, do not allow them to run around church.*

*If you have any questions about the service or the Christian faith please speak to a minister or one of the church wardens or welcomers.*

*Keep in touch....*

**Website** [www.stlaurencenorthfield.org](http://www.stlaurencenorthfield.org)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield](http://www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield)

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They are from a selection which is increasingly used in schools and care home.  
They are designed to assist people facing learning or memory challenges.  
They have been recommended by 'LivabilityUK'

