



Third Sunday of Advent
15 December 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Entry Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus [TIS 272]

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Advent Wreath

Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first two candles represented HOPE and PEACE. Today's candle represents JOY.

The third candle is lit.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Kids Time With God

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.**

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

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

Confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness,
and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our
sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified,
we may wait eagerly for him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all

the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:1–6

Behold, God is my salvation:

I will trust and will not be afraid;

For the Lord God is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.'

With joy you will draw water:

from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say:

Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

Make known his deeds among the nations:
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously:
let this be known in all the world.

Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion:
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant introduces the prayers with these words:

United in the company of all the faithful
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God,
the source of all life and holiness.

A minister continues

Merciful Lord,
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Bless Cameron our bishop and all ministers of your Church,
that by faithful proclamation of your word
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Give to the world and its peoples
the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy;
all who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,
guide us to your kingdom
and grant us your peace at all times.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Hasten the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks
for the whole company of your saints in glory,
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;
by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

Prayer for a new future together

God of new beginnings,
bless our Ipswich Anglican community
with a fresh vision for the future,
with generous hearts to love one another,
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.

Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich
as we walk together
into the future you have prepared for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The celebrant concludes the prayers with these words.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

From heaven you came, helpless babe [TIS 256]

The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

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

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who was looked for by the prophets,
heralded by the Baptist
announced by an angel,
born of the Virgin Mary,
and revealed at last to men and women of every race.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise.

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

***Agnus dei* (Lamb of God)**

**Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Notices

Kids Time With God

Mission Hymn

Hark the glad sound! [TIS 269]

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love.

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
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. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

Your impact: Providing safety in exile for Syrian and Palestinian refugees living in Jordan

LITURGY OF THE ADVENT CANDLE FOR JOY

Let us give thanks to the Lord and sing for joy,
For the Holy One dwells among us.

Silence and the lighting of the candle

In the stillness of this place and of this moment, we light this flame of joy. May it be a sign to us of the joy that springs forth from the wells of salvation, and may it guide us in the way of Christ.

As the light of this candle grows, so may the joy in our hearts shine, reflecting the goodness of our Creator.

Amen.

Lord our God, give to us a portion of that joy which comes gently, as a whisper, rooted in the depths of Your love. As we make our Advent journey, help us to seek abiding joy, not that of trinkets and tinsel, but that of Your presence with us.

Rima*, a mother of six, has been living in Jordan for 20 years after fleeing Gaza in 2004. Three of her children are disabled, and Rima struggled with isolation and the burden of raising her family. But everything changed when she joined the Forsa project.

Act for Peace's local partner in Jordan, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), runs the Forsa project – a two-year initiative that works with members of the Syrian and Palestinian refugee community, to assist them in reaching a point of self-reliance.

It is a transformational program that not only helps refugees to meet their basic needs, like food and healthcare, but focuses on long-term solutions through relevant training, and then eventually onto employment or small enterprises. This helps families just like Rima's to have a reliable and long-term source of income and hope for the future.

Rima has now started her own sewing business from home, which enables her to earn a stable source of income, while still being able to care for her children.

She is also more confident thanks to the support she has received and feels a greater sense of community and belonging for her family.

Your support can help find lasting solutions for people who have been displaced by conflicts and disasters around the world.

"I found motivation in the Forsa project. They took me from a negative situation to a positive one. If I need anything, I ask for their help and they help me with open arms. They lifted me out of poverty and into a better situation where I was able to pay off debts and I can buy everything we need."

– Rima

*Rima's name has been changed for safety reasons.



Rima has been living in Jerash Refugee Camp in Jordan for 20 years, where she is raising six children and supporting her extended family.



NEXT SUNDAY • 22 DECEMBER • 5.30PM

**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
St Paul's Church, Ipswich**

There will be a special offering for the 2024 Christmas Bowl Appeal during the service.

Our digital contributions to the Christmas Bowl were \$994 a few days ago, so we shall probably have passed the \$1,000 mark by now. You can still make a digital contribution and have it count towards the total for St Paul's Anglican Church Ipswich by using this QR code:



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The Advent Wreath liturgy was prepared by the Revd Matthew Kozlowski:

<https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Advent-Wreath-Liturgy.pdf>