



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Advent Sunday

*The first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...*  
**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today.  
Amen.**

*Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together....*  
**Dear God, this church is a family.  
Help us to learn together, to worship together,  
to share together and to pray together. In Jesus name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *J.R. Peasey (1896-1971) ©Mrs Mildred Peasey*

- 1. Awake, awake: fling off the night!  
For God has sent his glorious light;  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.**
- 2. Awake and rise, like people renewed,  
and with the Spirit's power endued,  
the light of life in us will glow,  
and fruits of truth and goodness show.**
- 3. Let in the light; all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before his cross for guidance kneel;  
his light will judge and, judging, heal.**

**4. Awake, and rise up from the dead,  
and Christ his light on you will shed.  
Its power will wrong desires destroy,  
and your whole nature fill with joy.**

**5. Then sing for joy, and use each day;  
give thanks for everything alway.  
Lift up your hearts; with one accord  
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*We are gathered together as one body*

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

**Amen**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

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

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

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

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, 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 (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*After each reading...* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 2.1-5

SECOND READING Romans 13.11-end

GRADUAL HYMN ©1977 Carey Landry and NALR, Administered by OCP Publications

***Abba, Abba, Father, you are the potter,  
We are the clay, the work of your hands.***

**1. Mould us, mould us and fashion us  
into the image of Jesus, your Son,  
of Jesus, your Son.**

**2. Father, may we be one in you  
as he is in you,  
and you are in him,  
and you are in him.**

**3. Glory, glory and praise to you,  
glory and praise to you for ever. Amen,  
for ever. Amen**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 24.36-44

*We sing...Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you O God.**

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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 INTERCESSION

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with  
confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

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

THE PEACE *Please stand*

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.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share a sign of peace with those nearest us*

OFFERTORY HYMN *C E Oakley (1832-65)*

**1. Hills of the north, rejoice; river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing;  
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;  
he judgement brings and victory.**

**2. Isles of the southern seas, deep in your coral caves  
pent be each warring breeze, lulled be your restless waves;  
he comes to reign with boundless sway,  
and makes your wastes his great highway.**

**3. Lands of the east, awake, soon shall your sons be free;  
the sleep of ages break, and rise to liberty.  
On your far hills, long cold and grey,  
has dawned the everlasting day.**

**4. Shores of the utmost west, ye that have waited long,  
unvisited, unblest, break forth to swelling song;  
high raise the note, that Jesus died,  
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.**

**5. Shout, while ye journey home; songs be in every mouth;  
lo, from the north we come, from east and west and south.  
City of God, the bonds are free,  
we come to live and reign in thee!**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The president blesses the elements, and the response each time is*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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 thanks and praise.**

*The president prays the preface then invites us to join with the whole company of heaven to sing....*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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*The president recalls the last supper:*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The president continues to praise God for his mighty acts. At the end we say...Amen*

As our Saviour taught us so we 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.**

**And 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**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**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.**

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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.

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing*

#### COMMUNION HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**2. Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in glorious majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,**

**cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Come, Lord Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Everlasting God, come down!**

*Post communion prayer:*

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**

**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**

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing ...

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

CLOSING HYMN *Dauermann, Rubin ©1975 Lillenas Publishing Company/CopyCare*

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace,  
and the mountains and the hills  
shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy,  
and the trees of the field  
shall clap, shall clap their hands.

*And the trees of the field  
shall clap their hands,  
the trees of the field  
shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field  
shall clap their hands,  
and you'll go out with joy!*

*Please stay for refreshments after the service.*

*Everyone is welcome here and if you are new or just visiting please  
feel welcomed as one of the family.*

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## **Our Prayer for Vision and Leadership**

Lord, we come before you with grateful hearts  
for the tremendous talent within our church.

We are a body filled with gifts yet  
we sometimes lose sight of why  
we were so richly blessed in the first place.

Forgive us when we fail to heed Your calling in our lives,  
or as a community.

Despite our forgetful nature, we know you love us dearly  
and want us to partner with you:  
not as servants, but as your children.

Bring us a renewed vision of ourselves from your perspective.  
Help us to embrace your love  
so that we may share it with others.

Guide us as we look to the future  
of this Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush.

Grant us a renewed vision as we seek you in your word.

Give us dreams that make us come alive because  
we are doing what you created us to do.

Let our joy overflow from the vision of the future you give us.  
Let us honour you with our work,  
with our families and with our lives.

**Amen**