



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Advent 3: Gaudete Sunday

*The third candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...*  
**Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now. 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: *C Coffin (1676-1749), tr. J Chandler (1808-1876)*

- 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.**
- 2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within;  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
Where such a mighty Guest may come.**
- 3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away,  
Like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4. Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.**

**5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.**

*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)

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 35.1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING: James 5.7-10

GRADUAL HYMN: *Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*

**1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.**

**2. He comes the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.**

**4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy belovèd name.**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 11.2-11

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**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*

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Alan Dale©1967 OUP

**1. God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.**

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free!  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come,  
And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come.*

**2. Just as the Father sent me,  
So I'm sending you out to be  
My witnesses throughout the world,  
The whole of the world.**

**3. Don't carry a load in your pack,  
You don't need two shirts on your back  
A workman can earn his own keep,  
Can earn his own keep.**

**4. Don't worry what you have to say,  
Don't worry because on that day  
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,  
Will speak in your heart.**

## 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 (1707-88)*

**1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4. By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*Post communion prayer...*

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.. **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**

**1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
shine on me, shine on me.**

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

**2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness,  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our face display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*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.*



## **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**