

# Welcome to St John's

## Holy Communion for Advent Sunday

### 28th November 2021



- You are most welcome to this service of Holy Communion.
  - The celebrant is **Revd Steve Butler**.
  - Everyone is welcome to receive the sacrament. At present we are only able to receive communion 'in one kind', that is, only the communion wafer (the celebrant will receive the wine on behalf of all). To receive, please come forward, one household at a time, and use the hand sanitiser both before and after you receive.
- 

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Advent Candles

*A:* One candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

*B:* The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

**Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of the darkness of our times, and may look for the coming of Jesus into our world. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

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.

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

Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Collect for Purity

**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.**

## Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."  
The second is this:  
"Love your neighbour as yourself."

There is no other commandment greater than these.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## Confession

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*(Silence)*

**God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Kyrie

Kyrie eleison  
*(Lord have mercy)*

## Collect *(Advent 1)*

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and 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 both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives**

**and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

## Psalm

### Psalm 25:1-10

25:1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**25:2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

25:3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**25:4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

25:5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**25:6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

25:7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, And shall be forever. Amen**

## Readings

### Jeremiah 33:14-16

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise

I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

3:9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 3:10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. 3:11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 3:12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 3:13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## **Gospel**

*(When the reading is announced, we say)*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

### **Luke 21:25-36**

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 21:27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. 21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand

up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." 21:29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 21:30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 21:31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 21:32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 21:34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, 21:35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 21:36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*(At the end)*

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## **Reflection**

*Steve*

## **Apostles Creed**

**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

*(Prayer is offered: for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members)*

## The Peace

We meet in Christ's name.

**Let us share his peace.**

*(We offer one another a word of peace)*

## Offering Song

I waited patiently for God,  
for God to hear my prayer;  
and God bent down to where I sank  
and listened to me there.

God raised me from a miry pit,  
from mud and sinking sand,  
and set my feet upon a rock  
where I can firmly stand.

And on my lips a song was put,  
a new song to the Lord.  
Many will marvel, open-eyed,  
and put their trust in God.

Great wonders you have done, O Lord,  
all purposed for our good.  
Unable every one to name,  
I bow in gratitude.

*(Bays of Harris /Ps 40, paraphrased)*

## Liturgy of the Sacrament

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have this  
bread to offer, which earth has given  
and human hands have made:  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have this  
wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of  
human hands; it will become the cup of  
our salvation.

**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 God thanks and praise**

Worship and praise belong to you, God  
our maker. Out of nothing, you called  
all worlds to be, and still you draw the  
universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and  
evening celebrate your glory till time  
shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and  
earth were joined, sealing the promise  
of a new creation, given, yet still to  
come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your  
threefold likeness look for the City of  
Peace in whose light we are transfigured  
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose  
who await with eager longing the fulfil-  
ment of all things in the coming of your

Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.  
Hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*(Please feel free to stand or sit for the Eucharistic prayer)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command.  
We recall his blessed passion and  
death, his glorious resurrection and**

**ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

As our Saviour has 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.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Do not bring us  
to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**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.**

## **The Communion**

*(All are invited to receive, standing at the front of the altar rail)*

## **Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to our gracious God,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

**God for whom we wait, you have fed  
us with the bread of eternal life. Keep  
us ever watchful, that we may be  
ready to stand before the Son of man.  
We ask this in the name of Christ the  
Lord**

## **Closing Hymn**

O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return

in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire  
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.

## **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine  
upon you and scatter the darkness  
from before your path; and the  
blessing of God almighty, the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among  
you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Sending Out**

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

**Please see the back page for Notices**



# Notices

## Today for Advent Sunday

**Choral Evensong** at 4pm, with the recorded choir of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. The setting is by Thomas Tomkins. Anything could happen... but I hope this will be a contemplative time for prayer and beautiful music to begin the season of Advent. Refreshments will be served after the service.

## Sat 4th Dec - Car Boot Sale

*From Liz Rogers/Events Group.*

St John's has booked a table top at the Indoor Car Boot sale at Pittenweem New Town Hall, Session St, Pittenweem on Saturday 4th December 9am-1pm. Set up is at 6pm on Friday 3rd, when we are happy to accept pre-packed baking, small amounts of bric-a-brac and books etc to sell. If you are able to help out on Saturday morning you will be very welcome for any part of that time. Do please come along as the organisers offer a raffle and refreshments during the morning and many other stalls will have interesting and maybe even Christmassy items to purchase!

## Next Sunday

### Sunday 5th December - Advent 2

The service will be led by Graham.

## Annual Church Meeting

### Sunday 12th December

From Steve - Everyone is invited to our Annual Church Meeting. We'll stay on after the service for the meeting, with a pause for a cup of hot soup and a roll before the meeting itself. We'll have a shortened service and aim to start the meeting at 12.45pm, ending

at 1.45pm. Everyone should receive an agenda and relevant information shortly.

## Gift of Christmas Appeal 2021

The Cocoa Tree is a drop off point for the GIFT OF CHRISTMAS APPEAL, FIFE, a registered charity, now in its 6th year - aiming to ensure that every child and young person in Fife, aged 0-18 years, has gifts to open on Christmas morning. The appeal runs from now until 12th December. In 2021 it is estimated that 1 in 5 children in Fife are living in poverty. Donations should be brand new and unopened, single items or complete gift bags and suitable for children aged 0-18. Thank you very much. More details at the Gift Of Christmas website here.

## Friday 17th - Monday 20th December - Outdoor Carols and Advent Story hosted by the churches of the East Neuk

On each of these afternoons at 4pm, local churches will join together in presenting a short retelling of the Christmas story in the open-air. Friday 17th - Crail, outside the Honey-pot Tearoom.

Saturday 18th - Anstruther, East Folly, at the Reaper

### Sunday 19th - Elie, Toll Green

Monday 20th - Lundin Links Common