



The Chapel of The Transfiguration

Sung Eucharist

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 30th November 2025

7.30 am



The readings in Advent often take us into what seems like rather scary ‘end-of the-world’ stuff, and it’s tempting to get hooked on the detail. Much of it comes from traditional apocalyptic language in a world where apocalyptic events could easily overwhelm people – that happens today too. The passage begins and ends with the assertion that no one knows the timings, so we must not get hooked on that either. In fact Jesus is simply telling us to live in a state of readiness: keep awake and alert to God coming into the world.

The Candles of Advent - First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath, with its circle of endless love, reminds us of God’s eternal presence and care. Each candle represents a gift Christ brings into the world, and as the light grows, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Today we light the candle of *hope*. The people of Israel placed their hope in God’s promises, and we too trust in His faithfulness. This first candle also recalls the Patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David—whose lives were rooted in hope. They trusted God’s promises long before they were fulfilled, becoming the first to light the way of faith. Their hope points us toward the promised Messiah, born in David’s city, who comes to establish God’s kingdom forever.



Music before the Service

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

The service is sung by

The Chapel Choir of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

Please remain silent before the service

The Gathering

Remain seated as the choir enters and takes their place

All stand as the procession of clergy and servers enter

The chaplain says

Let us proceed in peace

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn

during which the altar is censed



**O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating us from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.**

**O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.**

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

**O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.**

Words: 18th century trans. T.A. Lacey (1853-1931), alt. Tune: Veni Emmanuel
adapted from a French Missal

All remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Greeting

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

Amen.

“Now is the time to wake out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

Romans 13.11

Lighting of the First Advent Candle (The Patriarchs)

The celebrant says

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The lay assistant invites all to confess their sins

Prayers of Penitence

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

In that light we prepare to confess our sins to God.

All kneel and silence is kept

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The choir sings

Kyrie Eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christe Eleison	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
Kyrie Eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>

The celebrant pronounces the Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you of your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The lay assistant continues

The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray

Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which thy Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day, when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee
and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah 2. 1–5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

**And now our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem;**

Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.

**Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as
is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of
the Lord.**

For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

**O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.'**

'Peace be within your walls and tranquillity within your palaces.'
For my kindred and companions' sake, I will pray that peace be
with you.

**For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

Remain seated

The New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 13. 11–14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing

Gradual Hymn



**The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon his road
his glorious gift to meet.**

**The everlasting Son
Scorns not a Virgin's womb;
that we from bondage may be won,
he bears a bondman's doom.**

**Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy stubborn heart despise
the peace he deigns to bring.**

**In clouds of awful light,
as Judge he comes again,
his scattered people to unite,
with them in heaven to reign.**

**Let evil flee away
ere that dread hour shall dawn
Let this old Adam day by day
God's image still put on**

**Praise to the Incarnate Son,
who comes to set us free,
with God the Father, ever One,
To all eternity. Amen.**

Words: Charles Coffin (1593–1632)

Tune: St. Thomas
Aaron Williams (1731–76)

Remain standing and face the Gospel

The Gospel Reading

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All repeat:



Choir: 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 with thy spirit

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St. Matthew 24th Chapter, beginning at the 36th verse

Glory be to thee, O Lord

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

At the end,

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Praise be to thee, O Christ

Remain standing until invited to be seated

Sermon

given by

Mr. Chamodh de Silva

Lay Assistant

A time for silent reflection is kept following the sermon

All stand to sing

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Amen.

All kneel or sit

Prayers of Intercession

during which the following response is used

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

Greeting of 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.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Preparation of the Table
Offertory Hymn

*during which the bread, wine and water are placed on the altar,
and a collection is taken for the work of the chapel*



**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Tune: Helmsley

Thomas Olivers (1725–99)

Remain standing. The celebrant invites all to say,

**All things come from you and of your own do we
give you, Creator and Lord of the universe, ever
adored by the holy Angels. Accept these gifts
of bread and wine and these offerings which we
present at your holy table and with them the
dedication of our lives for your service, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Remain standing. The celebrant continues

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God
It is meet and right so to do

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

And now we give thee thanks because in his coming the day of our deliverance has dawned; and through him thou wilt make all things new, as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world.

Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

The choir sings

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee,
O Lord most high.

The people may sit, kneel or remain standing

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father eternal Sovereign, who in all your gifts and works manifests your holiness to all humanity. Holy is your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, through whom you did order the universe. And Holy is your ever blessed Spirit who reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God. Just as you yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that we might live in holy fellowship.

And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not abandon us but you guided us as a merciful Father; you revealed yourself to us through the Sages, the Law and the Prophets, and through your redeeming acts in history, and when the time was ripe, you came among us through your Son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to share our human nature in order that the Lord Jesus might revive your own image in us.

**Generous God, Jesus loves us
and sacrificed himself for us
and heralded the new life
in breaking bread with companions.**

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks to you Almighty Father, 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 manner after supper, he took the cup also, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying:

Drink, all of you from this,

for this is my blood of the new covenant

which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

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

Christ is the Bread of Life

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory**

And so Father, we present this bread and cup in communion with your whole church, in fellowship with (Blessed Mary, and) and all the saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory; giving thanks for all that Christ has done for us; for preparing us for all that lies ahead, we receive the benefits of Christ's life, death, resurrection and session in glory, and we eagerly await the heavenly banquet after Christ's coming again.

And we entreat you most merciful God to hear us and send your All Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts, that they being blessed and hallowed by that life giving power, may be for us the Body and Blood of your most dearly loved Son, to the end that we receiving the same may be sanctified and filled with your grace and heavenly blessing.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving; make us one body in Jesus Christ our
Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the
unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to
you Almighty Father, world without end.**

All sing: **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break

is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

We being many are one bread,

one body for we all partake of the one bread.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray

All sing

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 celebrant continues

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

The gifts of God for the people of God

The choir sings

Benedictus

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Deep Silence

The choir sings

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion

The celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying

Draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word and I shall be healed.

All sit. If you receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here.

Remain seated or kneeling to sing

Communion Hymn



**Ye servants of the Lord,
each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.**

**Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.**

**O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.**

**Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.**

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702–51)

Tune: Narenza
Hymnology, 1584

All kneel or remain seated

Prayers after Communion

The celebrant says,

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.
God's mercy endures forever.

“Our Lord says, ‘Surely, I come quickly.’
Even so; come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22.20

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Christ we offer you ourselves
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 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.
Amen.

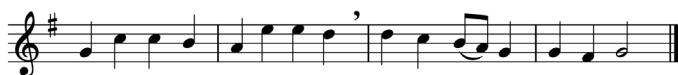
All stand

Go in peace to serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

during which the servers and clergy depart



**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 every nation,
joy of every 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 thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley

Tune: Cross of Jesus
John Stainer (1840–1901)

*Remain standing as the choir moves out, then sit.
You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ voluntary
or you may leave quietly at this point.*

Music after the Service

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme (*Sleepers, Awake*) BWV 645

J. S. Bach



Notices

Sunday Fellowship

You are all invited to a time of fellowship on the chapel steps.

Sunday 7th December

7.30 am

Sung Eucharist

Second Sunday in Advent

All are welcome to attend.

6.00 pm

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

sung by

The Chapel Choir of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavina

Music will include carols by

Philip Ledger

Bob Chilcott

Graham Ellis

and more

All are welcome to attend

Wednesday 24th December

11.30 pm

Sung Eucharist of Christmas Night

All are welcome to attend



Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. The text for the day is by The Ven Robert Jones, former Archdeacon of Worcester, The Mass Setting is by Harold Darke. Hymns are taken from the College Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicised edition).