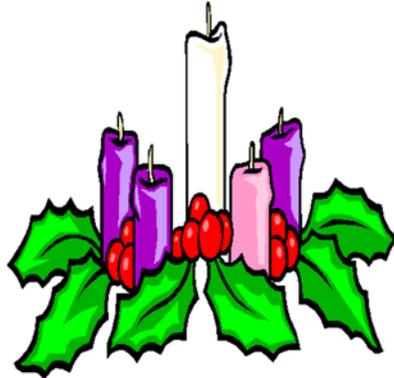


The Grouped Parishes of Annahilt and Magherahamlet



An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

The first Sunday in Advent 28 November 2021

This service for Advent, with a focus on the prophets, is an adaptation of the Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The Service will proceed without announcement of Carols, Hymns or Lessons

Processional Hymn CH 126

HARK! a thrilling voice is sounding,
'Christ is nigh', it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven:
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

that when next he comes in glory,
and the world is wrapp'd in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

The Rector says the Bidding Prayer:

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus
Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to
them.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;

for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

All say the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Lesson 1 Isaiah 40:1 –8
To God's people in exile in a faraway land,
the prophet Isaiah announces good news:
God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home!

Carol CH 135 (v 1 & 3)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

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

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe:

Lesson 2 Jeremiah 23:5 –6
The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous
branch, a just king who is yet to come.

Carol CH 135 (v 4 & 5)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

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

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

Lesson 3 Zechariah 9:9 –10
To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God
promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

Carol CH 119

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

Lesson 4 Haggai 2:6 –9
The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a
temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

Carol CH 333

How lovely are thy dwellings fair!
O Lord of hosts, how dear
the pleasant tabernacles are,
where thou dost dwell so near.

My soul doth long and almost die
thy courts, O Lord, to see;
my heart and flesh aloud do cry,
O living God, for thee.

Happy who in thy house reside,
where thee they ever praise;
happy whose strength in thee doth bide,
and in their hearts thy ways.

They journey on from strength to strength
with joy and gladsome cheer,
till all before our God at length
in Zion do appear.

For God, the Lord, both sun and shield,
gives grace and glory bright;
no good from them shall be withheld
whose ways are just and right.

- Lesson 5 Isaiah 35:1 –6
The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the
land and of God's people on the coming day of
redemption.

Carol T&P 23

Christ is surely coming, bringing his reward,
Alpha and Omega, First and Last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David, brilliant Morning Star:
meet your judge and Saviour, nations near and far;
meet your judge and Saviour, nations near and far!

See the holy city! There they enter in,
all by Christ made holy, washed from every sin:
thirsty ones, desiring all he loves to give,
come for living water, freely drink, and live;
come for living water, freely drink and live!

Grace be with God's people! Praise his holy name!
Father, Son, and Spirit, evermore the same;
hear the certain promise from the eternal home:
'Surely I come quickly!' – Come, Lord Jesus, come;
'Surely I come quickly!' – Come, Lord Jesus, come!

- Lesson 6 Luke 1:26 –35, 38
The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary
that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall
never end.

Carol CH 462

For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
and Mary, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly;

In meek obedience she believed,
though hard the task assigned,
and by the Spirit she conceived
the Saviour of mankind.

She gave her body as God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain;
she knew the cost of love divine,
when Jesus Christ was slain.

From Mary's gentle lowliness
and home in Galilee
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.

Give thanks for Mary, filled with grace,
above all women blessed,
and blessed her Son, whom her embrace
in birth and death confessed.

- Lesson 7 Mark 1:1–15
Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

Carol CH 136

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Collect

The Rector says the Collect for the first Sunday in Advent and other prayers:

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

The Blessing

The Rector says:

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. *(All sing)* **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn CH 132

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

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree:
Lord, have mercy,
let us all thine Advent 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,
Everlasting God, come down.

Rector: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you

Rector: Let us bless the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Notices