Anglican Church
Ipswich Anglican Community

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT





Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.
The first candle symbolises hope.

St Paul's • Ipswich
29th November, 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Processional Hymn: *Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes* [TIS 269]

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

The Ipswich Anglican Parish Community respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging, as the keeps of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

Advent Candle Lighting

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.
The first candle symbolises hope.
The first candle is lit.
We wait in hope for the Lord; [the Lord] is our help and our shield (Psalm 33:20)

Let us pray.
Eternal God, as we await the coming of our saviour, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. **Amen**.

Advent hymn: *Christmas is coming [TIS 289] Chorus and first verse only*
'Christmas is coming' the Church is glad to sing
and let the advent candles brightly burn in a ring.

The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness the hope of love and light.
'Christmas is coming' the Church is glad to sing
and let the advent candles brightly burn in a ring.

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kids' time with God

Sentence from Scripture

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.' Mark 13.31

Prayer of Preparation

We pray together,

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.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

Ten Commandments

Hear the commandments which God gave to God's people Israel.

- I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of slavery; you shall have no other gods but me.
- You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shall you labour and do all you have to do, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord your God.
- Honour your father and your mother.
- You shall do no murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's.

Confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence is kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Collect for the first Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen**.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us

away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord , you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80.1-7; 80.17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;
2 **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:**
stir up your power, and come to save us.
3 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 **O Lord God of hosts: how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
6 **You have made us the victim of our neighbours:**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:**
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.
18 And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
19 **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:**
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1.1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and

knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus [TIS 272]*

The Gospel Mark 13.24-37

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

THE NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The minister says

Let us pray for the world, for the City of Ipswich and for the mission of the Church, trusting in the God who gives courage to the weak and strength to the small, who entrust to us the riches of divine graces, and bring to light the things now hidden in darkness.

The intercessor continues

Holy Father, we ask you for insights and understanding of our faith. Enable each of us to live our lives in peace and compassion for others wherever they be in their stage of life. We ask for your blessing on Archbishop Jeremy, Bishop Cameron, and the clergy of this parish. We especially ask you to support the church in areas that do not have regular services.

Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints, let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. Father, your son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon all those whom Jesus calls today into new vocations of priests and deacons, mark with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church. For the people in communities that do not have a priest and weekly church communion services give them conviction, love, compassion and endurance. Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

On this first Sunday of Advent, look with mercy upon the world into which Jesus sent his disciples out, and give it that peace for which it longs. In countries torn apart by war assist people who need to rebuild their lives following destruction of their homes, livelihoods and communities.

Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and those that kill and maim indiscriminately. We ask you to prevent nuclear weapons being deployed in space.

Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Your Son Jesus formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him, his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share.

Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing. We pray for the elderly and others that need full time care and that they may not be prisoners inside their own bodies and that they may receive companionship. Please lord, remember those listed in our Pew Sheet and those known to the congregation.

Lord, have mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Please join me as we pray together the Ipswich Anglicans Prayer.

God of new beginnings,
bless our Ipswich Anglican community
with a fresh vision for the future,
with generous hearts to love one another,
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.
Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich
as we walk together into the future you have prepared for us.;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith
We may by your grace receive,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* [TIS 265]

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 our spiritual drink.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who was looked for by the prophets, heralded by the Baptist, announced by an angel, born of the Virgin Mary, and revealed at last to men and women of every race. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

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

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await your Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.
Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

Kids Time with God and Notices

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, 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**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Praise to the Holiest in height* [TIS 141]

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