

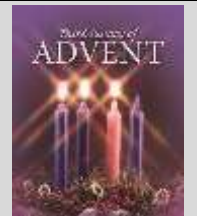


**UNITED PARISH OF RATHMINES WITH HAROLD'S CROSS**

**10am HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**

***Third Sunday of Advent***

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



**THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**THE GREETING**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all **and also with you.**

**LIGHTING OF OUR THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – JOY**

On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and last Sunday we lit the candle of Love, reminding us that God's perfect love is found in Jesus. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for your promise for joy to fill our hearts and to give us new strength.

**ALL: As we wait for the Lord, we will join our voices with the angels to sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" We wait for the day when your abundant joy will never end. We light our candle of Joy.**

**HYMN 136: ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY**

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| <p>1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry _<br/>announces that the Lord is nigh;<br/>awake and harken, for he brings _<br/>glad tidings of the King of kings.</p> <p>2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;<br/>make straight the way for God within;<br/>prepare we in our hearts a home,<br/>where such a mighty guest may come.</p> <p>3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,<br/>our refuge and our great reward;</p> | <p>without thy grace we waste away,<br/>like flowers that wither and decay.</p> <p>4. To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,<br/>and bid the fallen sinner stand;<br/>shine forth, and let thy light restore _<br/>earth's own true loveliness once more.</p> <p>5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,<br/>whose advent doth thy people free;<br/>whom with the Father we adore,<br/>and Holy Ghost for evermore.</p> |
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*Church Hymnal 5<sup>th</sup> Edition: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)  
tr. John Chandler (1806-76) altd.*



## THE 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.**

## PENITENCE

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself on these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *[Matthew 22: 37-39]*

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

## SILENCE

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECTS

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O Lord our God, you are the Mighty One who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of our Lord: may we like Elizabeth and John the Baptist recognise the presence among us of him who sanctifies us through his body offered for us, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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.**

**CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT** *The Song of the Virgin Mary: Luke 1:46-55*

- 1 My soul doth | magni·fy the | Lord, „  
and my spirit hath re|joiced in | God my | Saviour.
- 2 For | he · hath re|garded „ \_\_\_\_  
the lowliness | of his | hand|maiden.
- 3 For be|hold from | henceforth „  
all gener|ations · shall | call me | blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath | magni·fied | me, „  
and | holy | is his | Name.
- 5† And his mercy is on | them that | fear him „  
through|out all | gene|rations.
- 6 He hath showèd | strength · with his | arm, „  
he hath scattered the proud, in the imagin|ation | of their | hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat „  
and hath ex|alted · the | humble · and | meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with | good | things „  
and the rich | he hath · sent | empty · a|way.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his | servant | Israel, „  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham | and his | seed for | ever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, „  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, „  
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

**PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10**

*(Read by Chris Owen)*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory

of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord; **thanks be to God**

### **THE SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10**

*(Read by Fiona Blackburn)*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **HYMN 143: WAKEN, O SLEEPER, WAKE AND RISE**

1. Waken, O sleeper, wake and rise,  
Salvation's day is near,  
And let the dawn of light and truth  
Dispel the night of fear.
2. Let us prepare to face the day  
Of judgment and of grace,  
To live as people of the light,  
And perfect truth embrace.
3. Watch, then, and pray, we cannot know  
the moment or the hour,  
when Christ, unheralded, will come  
with life-renewing power.
4. Then shall the nations gather round  
to learn his ways of peace,  
when spears to pruning-hooks are  
turned,  
and all our conflicts cease.

*Church Hymnal 5<sup>th</sup> Edition: Michael Forster (b.1946)*

**GOSPEL READING – MATTHEW 11:2-11 (*Please Stand*)**

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**THE SERMON (EDWARD LEWIS)**

**THE NICENE CREED (*Please Stand*)**

**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 by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (RUTH GYVES)

Concluding with: **Merciful Lord, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### THE PEACE

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you - **and also with you.**

### CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE:

**AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE:** Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

**THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE:** Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us therefore let us celebrate the feast.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you. In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

At the end of the supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**



Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, 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.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say: **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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

### **THE COMMUNION**

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. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### **THE GREAT SILENCE**

### **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Father, we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts. Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit that when Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

## HYMN 131: LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES

(The offering will be taken during the singing of this hymn)

1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates;  
behold, the king of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
the Saviour of the world is here.
2. O blessed the land, the city blessed,  
where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
to whom this King in triumph comes.
3. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
4. Redeemer, come, with us abide!  
Our hearts to you we open wide:  
let us your inner presence feel;  
your grace and love in us reveal.

*Church Hymnal 5<sup>th</sup> Edition: George Weissel (1590-1635)  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) altd.*

## NOTICES

### GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

#### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.**



***Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee after the service***