



Sharing the Feast of Life In the Season of Advent

*Introductory music is played while the people gather,
followed by welcome*

Centring chant

**Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away.**

Lighting of the Advent candle(s)

In the beginning, when it was very dark,
God said: 'Let there be light'
and there was light.

The Advent candle(s) are lit.

God's light goes on shining in the darkness
and the darkness has never put it out.

Hymn

Reconciliation

Creator of light and darkness,
we so often chase shadows
and fail to walk in the light.

Forgive us, O God.

Short silence

Kyrie

**Lord, have mercy on us
Hear us as we pray;
Lord, have mercy on us,
Take all sin away.**

**Christ, have mercy on us,
Hear our heartfelt plea;
Christ, have mercy on us,
Set our spirits free.**

(Repeat first verse)

Forgiveness

You are released to travel through Advent
as forgiven and forgiving people:
lift your faces towards the light,
and walk together in hope and in faith. **Amen.**

*The president sends the children out to Kids' Church,
accompanied by a member of the adult congregation
carrying the Kids' Church lamp, lit from one of the Advent
candles.*

Prayer for the Day

Let us pray:

*We say the Prayer for the Day together (see front of
weekly bulletin).*

Ministry of the Word

First reading

*At the end of the first reading the reader says:
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn

The Gospel

Before the Gospel reading the reader says:

Alleluia, Alleluia:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

When the Gospel is announced, all respond:

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon or other reflection

5-minute silence for prayerful reflection on what we have heard, begun and ended by the sounding of a bell

A Creed for Advent

We believe in God,

**who creates and gives life to the world;
whose compassionate love is beyond our imagining,
yet closer than our breathing.**

We believe in Jesus:

**the Truth of God, the challenger of false values;
the living Word of God inviting us to new beginnings.**

We believe in the Spirit,

**breathing into us renewing power,
interpreting our longing for truth
and probing with us the depths of God's Wisdom.**

We believe in the company of God's people,

**called to follow the Way of Christ;
heirs to the promises of God,
which sustain us in what we know
and invite us to travel on
in discovery, hope and peace. Amen.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Each section of prayers has a response, led by the cantors:

Word of justice, **Alleluia!**

come to dwell here, **Maranatha!**

Word of mercy, **Alleluia!**

live among us, **Maranatha! ...**

The Peace

Music is played as the children return and bring up the bread and wine for the president, lining up together in front of the altar.

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us
to shine on 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.

We share the Peace with one another, and then gather around the altar.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this money,
symbolic of all our giving,
and of the work you have given us to do:
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The president thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:

Blessed be God for ever.

Thanksgiving Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The president offers our thanks and praise, concluding ...

We sing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heaven and earth adored,
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy, holy Lord.**

The president says the words of institution, finishing with:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The president continues the prayer, finishing with:

... in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

O God in heaven,

**Mother and Father of us all,
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.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ.

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

Jesus, Lamb of God

We sing:

**Jesus, Lamb of God:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace.**

Invitation

The president invites all to receive Communion.

The Communion

As each person receives bread and wine:

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**

The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

After receiving, anyone who wishes may go to receive prayer for healing and then return to the circle (or to their seat).

We remain standing around the altar until everyone has received communion, and then return to our seats. We wait in silence (or singing a suitable chant) until the prayers for healing are finished.

Prayer after Communion

**Bright star-maker God,
travel with us through Advent,
shine into our dark corners,
lead us into ways of justice,
warm us with joy and wonder,
bring us to new birth. Amen.**

Kids' Church share what they have been doing.

Hymn

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,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
be upon you and remain among you,
this day and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Notices