



WORTHING CHRIST CHURCH

Grafton Road

3rd December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent



ORDER OF SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion

led by The Revd Maurice Slattery

**Evensong this evening at 6pm
will be led by The Revd Roger Walker**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

read by Sally T

Gospel: Mark 13: 24 - end read by John H

Intercessions led by Tony S

***There is prayer in the organ vestry every Sunday at
10am for 15 minutes before the service, which you are
welcome to join at any time***

The Organ Voluntary after our Service today is:
*Fantasia Seconds sopra un soggetto solo (1608) by
Girolamo Frescobaldi, 1583-1643, Rome*

*Registered Charity no: 1152846
Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church
Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk*

A Service of Holy Communion

The Greeting *[Stand]*

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

HYMN [444] *[Please stand to sing]*

Choir note vs 4 is omitted from the hymn book

The 1st Advent candle is lit during the opening Hymn

God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near:
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever feet have trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God:
'Give ear to me you continents,
ye isles give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

What can we do to work God's work
to prosper and increase
the love of God in all mankind,
the reign of the Prince of peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea?

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed:
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

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Prayer of Preparation

**All 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.**

Prayers of Penitence *[Sit or kneel]*

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your mind,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like, namely this:

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these. On
these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Invitation to confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus
Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in
heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past**

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

The Collect

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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

Prayers for peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace among nations, and peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**



God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent
encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace
and justice could be experienced by all.
Spirit of the living God, Come afresh on your holy land.
Help your people to restore broken relationships.
Give them patience to break down barriers of suspicion and
mistrust; ability to discern personal prejudices and the
courage to overcome fear. Teach them to respect each
other's integrity and rights so that your kingdom may be
established on earth. For Jesus' sake. **All Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle [Sit] 1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given
you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in
every way – in all your speaking and in all your
knowledge – because our testimony about Christ was
confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift
as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be
revealed. He will also keep you strong to the end, so that
you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. God who has called you into fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Here ends the Epistle. **All Thanks be to God.**

Worship Song *Please stand to sing*

All heav'n declares
the glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
and worship him alone.

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord.
Who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
and worship you alone.

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Gospel Reading *[Remain standing]*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark *[Mark 13: 24 - end]*

All sing **Glory to you, O Lord.**



‘But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

‘At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

‘No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

‘Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All sing Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon [Sit]

A short period of silence is kept.

The Creed [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 from the Holy Spirit
and 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 [Sit]

And at the end, after a short period of silence

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers for the sake of
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament [Please stand]

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

We acknowledge each other with a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN [242] [Please stand to sing]

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

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Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine



Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in
heaven and on earth is yours.

All **All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and
praise, holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing;

All sing **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.
[Sit or Kneel]**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; 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 way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;

we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All sing **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of
your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with
your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we
worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.



All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The words of invitation to 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. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

Agnus Dei *is sung*

*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.*

***All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread
and wine at the Communion rail.***

If you do not wish to take the wine, please walk back to your pew after you have taken the bread.

If you would just like to receive a blessing, please carry your order of service with you to help the priest know your intention.

If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, the priest will come to you, please let the churchwarden know you wish to receive communion as he approaches down the aisle.

Post Communion Prayer [Sit or Kneel]

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with 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.

Final Hymn [32] [Please stand to sing]

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, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave:
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight: *Refrain*

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: *Refrain*

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: *Refrain*

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The Blessing

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 rest within you, and remain with you always.
All Amen.

The Minister says

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

*Our thanks to The Revd Maurice Slattery for leading our
service of Holy Communion today*

***Please stay for coffee or tea and a chat after the
service in Waters' Hall***

Church Wardens:

Kenneth Hobbs

email: christchurchfinance@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator: *Janine Hobbs*

email: christchurchadmin@btinternet.com

Worship for December in Christ Church

- 3rd Tonight 6pm Evensong**
- 10th 10.30am Morning Prayer**
- 14th 10.30am Thursday BCP Holy Communion**
- 17th 10.30am Holy Communion**
- 17th 4pm Christmas Carol Service**
- 24th 10.30am Morning Prayer**
- 24th 11.30pm Christmas Eve
Midnight Holy Communion**
- 25th 10.30am Christmas Morning
Holy Communion**
- 31st 10.30am Holy Communion**

CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS 2023/4

Sunday 17th December at 4pm. - Carol Service

6th to the 31st December

Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 13th February 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Worthing U3E Recorder Group

Tuesday 12th March 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Yoko Ono and Clelia Iruzun on one piano!

Tuesday 9th April 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

South Downs Folk Singers

Tuesday 14th May 2024 - from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Richard Bowen - guitarist

Tuesday 11th June 2024 – from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Brighton Guitar Quartet

Tuesday 9th July 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Zhanna (*pianist*) and Evelyn (*clarinet or alto saxophone*)

Saturday 7th September 2024 from 10.30am to 2.30pm

Christ Church Autumn Fair

Tuesday 10th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Paul Gregory – Guitarist

Tuesday 24th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

John Collins - Organist

**In October 2024, we welcome back Rob Campkin (Violin)
and James Buckham (Piano), date to be confirmed**

Tuesday 19th November 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm

The Inspired Instrumentalists

BCP Evensong – Service Order

Conducted by The Revd Roger Walker

Hymn 29 Hills of the North rejoice

Confession etc. (*see booklet*)

Responses

Psalm 9 (*see next page*)

1st Reading: Isaiah 1: 1 - 20 *Reader: Roger W*

Canticle – Magnificat (*see separate sheet*)

2nd Reading: Mark 13: 24 - end *Reader: Roger W*

Canticle – Nunc Dimittis (*see separate sheet*)

Creed, Responses, Collects (*see booklet*)

Hymn 26 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

Prayers *led by John B*

Hymn 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Sermon

Offertory Hymn 25 Creator of the starry height

Blessing

Organ Voluntary

***Chorale Preludes on Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
by Friedrich Zachow, 1663-1712, Halle***

***Our thanks to The Revd Roger Walker
for leading our service this evening***