

Worship for 14th November

2nd Before Advent

As we worship together, we seek to grow as a community that encourages, challenges and equips one another to proclaim our trust in Jesus Christ. We are called to achieve this through engaging, compassionately and sacrificially, with our neighbourhoods and all creation.

Invitation to Confession:

Let us come before the Lord with true hearts and in full assurance of faith, confident that through the gift of Christ's blood we are washed clean of all sin.

We own up to the jealousy, ignorance and arrogance that impede the mission of the Church.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess all the times we have dissembled, lied and hidden truth.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess the greed, possessiveness and wastefulness that mar the life of our planet.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A reading from Daniel 12:1-3 (NRSV)

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Psalm - 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'
As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark (13:1-8 - NRSV)

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Thought for the Day

Following Jesus is about stepping into the kingdom of God. It is a call to each one of us to put our hand into his. We do this together, but we each need to make our own choice.

Intercessions

Take some time to reflect on your life this week. Where do you need God's presence and help? Give thanks for where you feel you have received it and pray for those situations - places and people - who are in particular need at this time.

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Act of Reception

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Final Prayer

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess

and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father open our minds to the hope of resurrection;
may the sacrifice of Christ the Son free us from the judgement of sin;
may the Holy Spirit write God's law of love in our hearts.
And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us, now and evermore. Amen.