

*Parish of Curdworth, Middleton and Wishaw*

# NEWSLETTER

## **For December 2024**

**The Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day  
and New Year's Day**

**Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter**



### **Sunday 1st December – First Sunday of Advent**

- All Age Worship at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – The Rector
- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton** –  
Mr Andrew Farrow

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent**

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector
- Family Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – The Rector

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent**

- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** –  
Rev James Parry
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton** –  
Rev Canon Frank Longbottom
- **CAROL SERVICE** at **6.30pm** at **St Chad's, Wishaw**

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

- **CAROL SERVICE** at **7.30pm** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth**

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector
- All Age Worship at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – Rev James Parry
- **CAROL SERVICE** at **6.30pm** at **St John's, Middleton**

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS EVE

- **Crib Service and Nativity** at **2.30pm** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** 
- **First Communion of Christmas** at **9.00pm** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** - The Rector
- **Midnight Communion** at **11.30pm** at **St John's, Middleton** –
- Rev Canon Frank Longbottom

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS DAY

- **Christmas Family Communion** at **10.00am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – First Sunday of Christmas

**NO SERVICES**

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Second Sunday of Christmas

- All Age Worship at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – Rev James Parry
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas, Curdworth** – Rev Canon Frank Longbottom
- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton**

## DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Note
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>Purple</b> YEAR C	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Chad's, Wishaw
	11.15am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas', Curdworth
	11.15am	Service of the Word	St John's, Middleton
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30pm	Choir singing carols for Erdington Rotary	Grounds Farm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	St John's Church
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch –	Choir singing carols for Ex-	Grounds Farm

	time	Servicemen	
	7.15pm	Choir Practice	Curdworth Church Hall
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1-5pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL</b>	<b>CURDWORTH CHURCH</b>
	7.00pm	Choir singing carols	Coppice Garden Centre
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1-6pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL including CHRISTMAS MARKET</b>	<b>CURDWORTH CHURCH CHURCH HALL</b>
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1-5pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL</b>	<b>CURDWORTH CHURCH</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Chad's, Wishaw</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>Purple</b>			
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	St John's Church
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Choir Practice	Curdworth Church Hall
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Wishaw Community Coffee Morning	St Chad's Church
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St John's, Middleton</b>
<b>Purple</b>	<b><u>6.30pm</u></b>	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	<b>St Chad's, Wishaw</b>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	St John's Church
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>7.30pm</u></b>	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Chad's, Wishaw</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>Purple</b>	<b><u>6.30pm</u></b>	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	<b>St John's, Middleton</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>CRIB SERVICE</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>First Communion of Christmas</b>	<b>St Nicholas', Curdworth</b>
<b>Purple</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>	<b>St John, Middleton</b>

Wednesday <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> White/Gold	10.00am	Christmas Family Communion	St Chad's, Wishaw
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas White		NO SERVICES	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	10.30am 11.15am	New Year's Day Walk Pets Service	Starting at the Cock Inn St Chad's, Wishaw
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas White	9.30am 11.15am 11.15am	All Age Worship Holy Communion Service of the Word	St Chad's, Wishaw St Nicholas', Curdworth St John's, Middleton



## **TALENT SCHEME 2024-5**

The Talent Scheme has begun! So far, 17 people have received an envelope containing their £5 starter and have taken up the challenge. Anyone else who is willing to have a go at doubling, tripling, quadrupling £5 (or more), please let me know. I have lots more £5 notes. Every little helps and the Talent Scheme will officially end on Shrove Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

If you have an idea of how you might increase your £5, please let me know so that we can publicise and promote it.

Here's to the raffles, coffee and cake mornings, afternoon teas, cards for all occasions, sales of cakes, biscuits, jams, marmalades, jewellery, knitted, crocheted or sewn items of clothing or gifts, film nights, rambles, trips, musical events, bingo nights, beetle drives, whist drives, or treasure hunts, sponsored events (walks, runs, singathons,). Margaret Allen

**THANK YOU.....** to everyone who supported the **Ceilidh** in any way. Special thanks to Anne Mitchell (Grounds Farm) for supplying beautiful food and to Paul and Lynne Archer for sponsoring the band. Brenda Thomson headed up this event and, as usual, she and her family made a massive contribution to the evening's success. Other members of the DCC pitched in too. A great night was had by all and in addition a grand total of over £900 was raised for St Chad's Church.

# TALENT SCHEME UPDATE

Look out at the Christmas Market in the Church Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December for some “Talent” items on sale. There will be ‘Santa’s Washing Lines’, Christmas bunting, hand-crafted cards and all you need to grow hyacinths in a gift pack, complete with bowl.

If you would like to sell any small items that you have created for the Talent Scheme - cakes, jams, pickles, chutneys, small gifts etc – please let us know and you can have a space on the Talent Scheme table.



## HOME COMMUNION

### 1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH



**IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS UNABLE TO COME TO CHURCH DUE TO ILLNESS AND WOULD LIKE HOLY COMMUNION,**

**PLEASE CONTACT LISA WILCOX ON 07739183310.**



## Wishaw Community Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on  
**December 12th at St Chad's at 10.30am.**

Come and join us for Christmas festivities!



## TALENT SCHEME – CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SONGS

Join Ian and Celia at the Christmas Market for festive musical  
fun! Sing-a-long, choose a song from the list or just listen.

**2.00-3.00pm**

**Something for everyone!**



*I wish it could be Christmas every day! Away in a manger  
When a child is born Little Donkey  
Rocking around the Christmas Tree.....many more!*



## The Season of Advent

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December sees the beginning of the season of Advent. It is a penitential season, with the altar colour being purple, but not quite in the same league as Lent. In today's world, can be difficult to focus on the serious side of Advent when Christmas arrives in the shops and garden centres in September! We tend to observe it more as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.

Advent is observed by Christians from many backgrounds and traditions, including Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians. Many people will have Advent Calendars, helping them to count down to Christmas. Some will have Advent wreaths with five candles, one for each of the four Sundays of Advent and one for Christmas Day itself. In our churches we will see three purple candles and a pink one which represent hope, peace, joy and love with a white one for Christmas Day, representing the birth of Christ.

Sometimes the first candle is called the Prophecy Candle, the second the Bethlehem Candle, the third the Shepherds' Candle and the fourth the Angel's Candle. However we interpret Advent symbols, let's hope we all manage to achieve the balance between the frenzy of getting ready for Christmas and remembering the real significance of the season of Advent – getting ready for the birth Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



**Talent Scheme Breakfast-  
postponed until the new year.  
Look out for details in January.**

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL St Nicholas' Church, Curdworth



**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00pm until 5.00pm**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00pm until 6.00pm**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00pm until 5.00pm**

**Admission £3.50**

**FREE for under 12s**

**Price includes:** tea, coffee, mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies

**Also: visit the **CHRISTMAS MARKET** on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Between 2.00pm and 6.00pm in Curdworth Church Hall**

*Featuring cakes, handmade gifts, cards, Christmas Eve items, homemade bread pudding, hyacinth gift packs, face painting, decorate Christmas cookies, pick and mix sweet bar – all provided by individuals and small local businesses.*

*Supporting the Christmas Tree Festival and St Nicholas' Church.*





**Finance** – Here are the bank details for each church for your reference:

St Nicholas': 30-92-75 00610273 (PCC of St Nicholas Curdworth)

St John's: 05-09-42 57896460 (St John the Baptist PCC)

St Chad's: 30-98-37 00152981 (Parochial Church Council Wishaw)

**The Newsletter** – if you would like anything added to the Newsletter, here are the details you need: [margaret\\_allen69@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_allen69@yahoo.co.uk) 07778 458 789 or [n.w.phillips@live.com](mailto:n.w.phillips@live.com) 07498

### **PRAYER LIST**

The revision of the prayer list has begun. Please check it. If there are names of people who need to be added or names which could now be removed, please let us know.

Many thanks.



**PRAYER LIST** – Please remember in your prayers all who are sick and those who care for them and those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

<b>Prayers for the sick</b>			
<b>Curdworth</b>	Louise Baudet	<i>Barbara Blaber</i>	Sharon Brown
	Adrian Cionnagh	<i>Yvette Crawford</i>	<i>Claire Eldridge</i>
	<i>Jean Eldridge</i>	<i>Amanda Emerson</i>	Barbara Ingram
	Nina Lawley	Caroline Lee	<i>Isabella Murphy</i>
	<i>Kayla Norman</i>	<i>Helen Parry</i>	Jenny Phillips
	Tim Rawson	Ellie Reeves	<i>Cathy Smith</i>
	Clare Tillson	Barry Wiltshire	
<b>Middleton</b>	<i>Pete Hancock</i>	<i>Jean Nixon</i>	<i>Alan Cochran</i>

<b>Wishaw</b>	Pat Harris	Colin Philpott
	Joyce Simmons	Margaret Turner
<b>For the departed</b>	Pamela Millington	

## Readings for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### First Sunday of Advent

#### 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.

**Amen.**

#### The Old Testament Reading

*is from the book of the prophet Jeremiah chapter 33*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## The New Testament Reading

*is from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians chapter 3*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>25</sup>'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, <sup>35</sup>and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

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.

**Amen.**

## **Readings for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024** **Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Collect**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

*is from the book of Baruk chapter 5*

- <sup>1</sup>Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.  
<sup>2</sup>Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
<sup>3</sup>for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.  
<sup>4</sup>For God will give you evermore the name,

'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

<sup>5</sup>Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look towards the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

<sup>6</sup>For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

<sup>7</sup>For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills  
be made low

and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.

<sup>9</sup>For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The New Testament Reading**

*is from the letter of Paul to the Philippians chapter 1*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and  
deacons:

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

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I  
always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first  
day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart;  
for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you  
share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the  
affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Readings for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent

### The Collect

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

**Amen.**

### The Old Testament Reading

*is from the book of Zephaniah chapter 3*

Sing, O Daughter of Zion;  
shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
O Daughter of Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.  
On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.  
The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing.”  
“The sorrows for the appointed feasts  
I will remove from you;  
they are a burden and a reproach to you.  
At that time I will deal

with all who oppressed you;  
I will rescue the lame  
and gather those who have been scattered.  
I will give them praise and honour  
in every land where they were put to shame.  
At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honour and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your very eyes,”  
says the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The New Testament Reading**

*is from the letter of Paul to the Philippians chapter 4*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptised. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Readings for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **Collect**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him

when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Old Testament Reading**

*is from the book of the prophet Micah chapter 5*

The LORD says to his people:

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The New Testament Reading**

*is from a letter to the Hebrews chapter 10*

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in

sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me –  
holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants for ever,  
even as he said to our fathers.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



*Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a  
happy and peaceful New Year.*