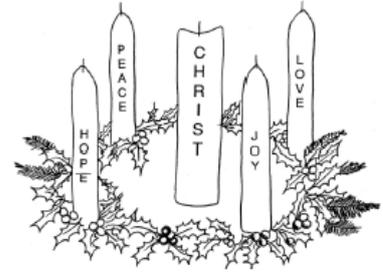


**The 1st Sunday of Advent
29th November 2020**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.



The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and
all people shall see it together.

Isaiah 40 verse 5

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

The lighting of the first candle for Advent

Let us pray

When hope hangs low in the human heart, you, loving creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy.

As winter days dim and bow to early darkness, you, God of light, set watch in the night sky and beckon the wise to follow. We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the inky heavens and dreams deep into the human soul. As Advent dawns, God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the saints who journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world – peace, joy, love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.

We light a candle for hope. May it light the way.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Kneel.
Silence is kept.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

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.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word - We stand together

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 80

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;

you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The First lesson : 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Canticle : Te Deum Part 3

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance: govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you: we praise your name forever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin: have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy, for we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope, let us never be put to shame.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Mark 13: 24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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

Alleluia.

Sermon - Bishop Alan Abernethy

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered

under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray - we kneel together

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father in heaven, 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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.
Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.
O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.
Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.
O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

The Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent

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.**

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you
is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in
all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your
protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being:
We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern
us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life,
we may never forget your presence but may remember that we
are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

As we close our prayers we keep silence.

With love and compassion,
Come, Lord Jesus
With judgement and mercy,
Come, Lord Jesus
In power and glory
Come, Lord Jesus
In wisdom and truth
Come, Lord Jesus

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Parish Notices

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

Please note that in line with government 'lockdown' guidance there will be no 'in church' service on Sunday 29th or 6th December.

DIY Advent - Create your own Advent prayer chain

See the links on the church website - just beside the link for the Sunday service paper!

You can create a prayer chain by making one loop of the chain each day in Advent, taking a few moments every day to reflect and pray for what we are all waiting for – for God's vision for the world to be realised. The Christian Aid Advent Prayer chain can be used each day as an activity to help us reflect and pray during Advent, provide an opportunity to pray as a whole church family and the daily activities could also be adapted to form the basis of intercessory prayers in a service of worship. The Advent prayer chain will help you to create a decoration in time for Christmas!

DIY Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Advent at home with a lovely set of thoughts and prayers that you can do at home - with family or alone. Some candles and some prayers to guide you.

See the links on the church website - just beside the link for the Sunday service paper!

Our Church Office has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone. They are doing a terrific job. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch. The office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. SO...would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? Call 91853810. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office & the team will pray for them.

Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30 p.m. (Restrictions permitting)

Contact Pauline Smyth on 91852486 to book your seat. We will be maintaining social distancing within the church for this service so spaces are strictly limited for safety reasons.

Christian Aid: An appeal has been launched to respond to the needs of overseas communities struggling with Cover 19. Aid agencies are working with partners to provide basic medical care & support - www.christianaid.ie to give directly. Or you can ring 9064 8133 to make a donation to the Belfast office.

Prayer for this Week

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.