

# Advent 4: Home Worship

## 19 December 2021

*For hymns, see the YouTube recording of the service which is published shortly after the 10am Eucharist at:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PZ-OGaWI9XvZLXd1Y1LyA>

### ***The Gathering***

*Take a few moments in silence to collect your thoughts and to acknowledge God's presence with you.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

When the Lord comes, He will bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ  
let us confess our sins.

## ***The Confession***

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

## ***The Absolution***

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

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

## ***The Lighting of an Advent Candle***

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
Your light has shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,  
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the Light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children who long for your coming.

## ***The 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.

## ***Readings***

### **Micah 5.2-5a**

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.  
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.  
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;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land

and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

### **Hebrews 10.5-10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

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).’

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),  
then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He  
abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it  
is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the  
offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 1.39-55**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a  
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the  
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth  
heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And  
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed  
with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this

happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

***Sermon by Fr Simon***

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

*The following or another response may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

## ***The Peace***

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## ***Eucharistic Prayer***

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

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.

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those at Home**

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

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.

### ***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.

### ***The Blessing***

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon us, scatter the darkness from before our path, and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always.  
Amen.

### ***Dismissal***

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.