



### The Greeting

The Lord be with you  
*and also with you.*

### Opening Responses for Advent

High on the mountains,  
someone is shouting,  
*here comes God.*

Justice is marching.  
Peace is following.  
*Here comes God.*

Help is near;  
shout for glory.  
*here comes God.*

### Lighting the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath



*Two candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.*

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of the light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no more.

The candles on our Advent Wreath will remind us of the story of how, through the years, through different people, and finally in Jesus Christ, God's Kingdom comes on earth.

The first candle is to remind us of the patriarchs who were the leaders God sent before Jesus. The second candle is to remind us of the prophets, those who brought God's message to the world in which they lived and who said what they thought about what was really going on in the world, even when they were afraid.

They believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

There are people like that today too, who are confronting justice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace.

*God, as we wait for your promise,  
give light, give hope.*

*Living God,  
we thank you for faithful people of every age.*

*We pray that we, too,  
may have faith,*

*in spite of the darkness of our times,  
and may look for the coming of Jesus into our world. Amen.*

### Hymn - One Candle (Frère Jacques)

*[Repeat each line]*

Two candles,  
burning slow.  
Advent weeks of waiting,  
two to go.

Wise men watching  
for a star.  
Going on a journey,  
in the dark.

### The Jesse Tree - St Philip and St James' Church

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Today, we are putting a coloured coat for Joseph, a burning bush for Moses, a lamb for the Israelites, the Tables of the Torah for God, a ram's horn for Joshua, a clay water pitcher for Gideon and a crown for Samuel, on the tree.



### Hymn No. 119 (Halton Holgate) - N.B. Tune!

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### The Preface

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.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

*[Please kneel or sit]*

**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;  
by what we have done and by what  
we have failed to do.  
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 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.**

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your  
praise.**

O 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 forever. Amen.*

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*[Please sit]*

### **The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 40: 1-11**

*The Old Testament Reading is from the book of the  
prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, beginning at verse 1.*

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's  
hand  
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of  
the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a  
highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made  
low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the LORD shall  
be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has  
spoken.'

- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
 And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
 All people are grass,  
 their constancy is like the flower of  
 the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
 when the breath of the LORD blows  
 upon it;  
 surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
 but the word of our God will stand  
 for ever.
- <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
 lift up your voice with strength,  
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
 lift it up, do not fear;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
 'Here is your God!'
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with  
 might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.
- <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a  
 shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
 and carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here ends the Old Testament  
 Reading.

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

**Psalm - Hymn - No. 136**  
**(Winchester New)**

*[Verses 1-3]*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
 announces that the Lord is nigh;  
 awake and hearken, for he brings  
 glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from  
 sin;  
 make straight the way for God within;  
 prepare we in our hearts a home,  
 where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
 our refuge and our great reward;  
 without thy grace we waste away,  
 like flowers that wither and decay.



*[Please sit]*

**The New Testament Reading - Mark**  
**1: 1-8**

*The New Testament Reading is from the gospel  
 according to St Mark, chapter 1, beginning at verse  
 1.*

The beginning of the good news of  
 Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
 'See, I am sending my messenger  
 ahead of you, who will prepare your  
 way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the  
 wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight" ',

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Here ends the New Testament Reading.

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

### **Canticle: Hymn - No. 136**

#### **(Winchester New)**

*[Verses 4-5]*

To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

### **The Apostles' Creed** *[shortened version]*

***I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the  
Lord, the giver of life. Amen.***

### **The Prayers of the People**

The Lord be with you  
***and also with you.***

*[Please sit or kneel]*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

***Christ, have mercy.***

Lord, have mercy.

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

#### **The Versicles and Responses**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
***and grant us your salvation.***

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers  
***and grant our 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 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

*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.***

*This Collect may be said after the Collect of the day until Christmas Eve.*

***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*

### **The Prayers**

#### **Hymn - No. 126 (Merton)**

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,  
'Christ is nigh', it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'*

*Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven:  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;*

*that when next he comes in glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.*

*Honour, glory, might and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.*

### **The Sermon**

*[The Collection will be received during the singing of this hymn.]*

### **Hymn No. 134 (Make way)**

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Make way, make way  
for the King of kings;  
make way, make way,  
and let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall  
dance,  
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy  
hearts,  
who weep and sigh;  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him -  
their thrones must fall!

### **The Blessing for Advent**

We travel in time:  
*may God walk with us to eternity.*

We travel in hope;  
*may God sing with us through the  
darkness.*

We travel in wonder;

*may God dance with us in holy joy.*

So may the blessing of the God of  
glory,  
Traveller, Storyteller, Dancer,  
be in us today and every day. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Through years and millennia;  
through days and moments,  
***we are travelling home.***

Trusting in promises,  
covered in mercy,  
***we are travelling home.***

Growing in holiness,  
heading for glory,  
***we are travelling home.***

*In the interests of trying to keep all who  
come to our churches safe, please take  
away this service sheet and any other items  
that you may have brought with you or  
used in church this morning. Thank you.*

*Stay well and stay safe.*

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## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

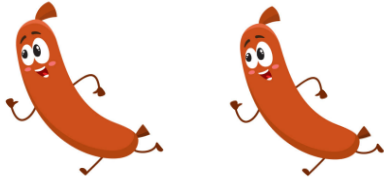
Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm  
In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St  
Philip and St James' Parish Centre  
Contact Irene on 087-2755423  
[irene.reid1052@gmail.com](mailto:irene.reid1052@gmail.com)

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# **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**TONIGHT!**

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church, followed by sausages and wedges

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

17.00 and 19.00 St Andrew's College Junior School Carol Services in St Philip and St James' Church

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023****NB Service Times and Venues**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United Christingle in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

19.00 Carols by Candlelight in St Thomas' Church (live-streamed)

*followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Monk Gibbon Hall*

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service in St Philip and St James' Church

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

11.00 Ecumenical School Carol Service for Booterstown National School, Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School and St Mary's Boys' School in St Philip and St James' Church

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Christmas****Eve NB Service Times and Venues**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas' Church

22.00 The First Communion of Christmas - St Thomas' Church

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Christmas****Day**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Family Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Family Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

***No Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church***

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – New Year's****Eve**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

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## ***PJ's Christmas Craic-er!***

*Thank you to all who helped and who supported the Christmas Craic-er yesterday.*

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# Carol Singing

for

# Dublin SIMON

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
2023

4pm—6pm

**Blackrock Village Shopping  
Centre**

(the one with SuperValu)

*We are asking people to sign up to sing  
and/or collect for 30 minutes or 1 hour... or  
however long they can.*

*Please email Gillian to let her when and for  
how long you can be there!*

[booterstowndmountmerrion@gmail.com](mailto:booterstowndmountmerrion@gmail.com)



**BOOTERSTOWN AND  
CARYSFORT**

**SELECT VESTRY MEETING  
THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023  
19.30 HOURS IN THE PARISH ROOM  
OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES'  
PARISH CENTRE**

**MOUNT MERRION  
SELECT VESTRY MEETING  
TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024  
19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM**



**Confirmation Class  
for teenagers**

*Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 2023 at  
18.30*

*St Philip and St James' Church*

Please note that Confirmation preparation for adults  
will take place separately – please contact the  
Rector.

***Ad Hoc Choir Practice***  
*for the Carols by Candlelight*

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
at*

*7.30pm in St Thomas' Church*



**Help for Santa!**

Life can be very cruel and we could  
make a difference to some children  
this Christmas. This is why I am asking  
you if we could help Santa. I am asking  
if you could buy one or two small toys -  
they cannot be big toys as those  
families living in hotels or hostels, or in  
cars, do not have the room for anything  
big - and could you bring them to either

of our churches on the following Sundays... if you are not able to attend the service, please aim to arrive at the end of the service to drop off the items:

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to St Thomas' Church – service at 9.30-10.15 or to St Philip and St James' Church - services at 8.30-9.00, 11.00-11.45 and 18.30-19.00.**

*I have to deliver the items into the Capuchin Day Centre on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, so we have to have them before then.***

### **Santa needs long-johns, etc too!**

**New** pairs of long-johns (underwear) are hugely appreciated by The Alice Leahy Trust for their service users. As you can imagine, it is bitterly cold, living on the streets, at this time of the year. We would be delighted to pass on new long-johns, new warm socks, new gloves and new hats. Warm jackets and hoodies in good condition would also be great.

***We can give a little love this Christmas, and that is exactly what Christmas is... God coming to earth in human form because he loves us, and to show us through Jesus Christ how to love and to care.***

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