

WELCOME TO THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

ST GEORGE

EAST IVANHOE, MELBOURNE

ADVENT 2020



WELCOME

St George's is a community committed to making and sustaining connections: with God, with one another, with the local and wider community, and with the environment. We value liturgical worship, encouraging fellowship and community service. We believe in God - the beauty of transcendent holiness, present in our connectedness; and in caring passionately for all in need. All are welcome in this sacred space.

ADVENT

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty.

CHARLES WESLEY

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains ‘Maranatha’ – ‘Our Lord, come’ (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice throughout the world. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or ‘Rose Sunday’),

and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great ‘O’ Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath has four red or blue candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. Alternatively, there may be three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white or gold one on Christmas Day.

The new candle each week may appropriately be lit during the Prayers of Penitence. Alternatively, the candles may be lit after the Gospel Reading, before the Peace, or after Communion, where the prayer(s) used at the lighting becomes a natural Post-Communion prayer. All five candles may appropriately be alight during services through the Christmas season.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle.

Advent 1	The Patriarchs	The Candle of Hope
Advent 2	The Prophets	The Candle of Peace
Advent 3	John the Baptist	The Candle of Love (Rose)
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary	The Candle of Joy
Christmas Day	The Christ	

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. ‘The Patriarchs’ can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. ‘The Prophets’ gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was ‘foretold’. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

The prayers below reflect these four themes.

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

Celebrant: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.
Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE.

The candle is lit.

Scripture: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
PSALM 33.20

Prayer: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our saviour, give the courage to hope. Give grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. **Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Celebrant: Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath.
Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace.

COLOSSIANS 3.15

Prayer: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent - Love

Celebrant: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; and the third candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

JOHN 13.34

Prayer: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Joy

Celebrant: Today we light the first, second, third and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; the third candle is LOVE; and the fourth candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

ISAIAH 55.12

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light in the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Christmas Eve - The Christ Candle

Celebrant: Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath and the Christ Candle. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; the third candle is LOVE; the fourth candle is JOY. The centre candle is the Christ Candle.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9.6

Prayer: O God of hope, peace, joy and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. **Amen.**

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Week One – Hope

The prophets spent years telling people about the hope that God would send a saviour to change the world. And He did. Talk about what it feels like to wait in hope and what it feels like to get a gift you've been waiting for.

Week Two – Peace

At this time of year, we talk a lot about peace. Being at peace helps us be able to see and feel God's love. Talk about peace and how it feels when people are at peace in your home or at school. This is also a time to share God's peace with others. How might you share that peace this week?

Week Three – Love

Loving others the way God loves us is no easy task. In fact, it is impossible; but we are still called upon to try every day. During this season we see lots of representations of love being easy and always so happy. Talk about what loving looks like when it is hard, when you don't want to be loving, or when it means making a sacrifice. Discuss what the days before Jesus' birth looked like for Mary and Joseph and the loving sacrifices they had to have made.

Week Four – Joy

There are so many different ways to find joy. There is joy in being together, accomplishing a hard task, or helping others. Talk about the different ways you have felt joy this season. What brings you joy in your daily life?

Acknowledgements: Advent and the Advent Wreath are copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. The Advent Wreath Liturgy is compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozolowski, Priest Associate, All Saints Church, Chevy Chase, MD.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020

~ SEASON OF INVITATION ~

Sunday 29 November - *First Sunday of Advent - Hope*

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Choral Eucharist
5pm	Choral Evensong - The Art of Giving

Sunday 6 December - *Second Sunday of Advent - Peace*

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Choral Eucharist

Sunday 13 December - *Third Sunday of Advent - Love*

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Choral Eucharist

Sunday 20 December - *Fourth Sunday of Advent - Joy*

7.30am	Morning Prayer
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Choral Eucharist
9pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols

Thursday 24 December - *Christmas Eve - Light*

5pm	Children's Liturgy & BBQ
11pm	Midnight Mass

Friday 25 December - *Birth Of Our Lord - Christmas Day*

9am	Choral Eucharist
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Light refreshments are served after all services.