

**Welcome to worship in
Port Talbot Ministry Area
St Agnes' Church
Advent 1 - year C**

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

**Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiv'n.**

**So when next he comes with glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then, as our defender,
on the clouds of heav'n appear.**

**Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.**

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

Grace and peace be with you.
And keep you in the love of Christ.

In Advent we look for the coming of the Christ child but also look further ahead to that time when we will come face to face with our Lord. Let us come before God now, with love for ourselves and for one another.

We light the first candle on the advent wreath.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors, to you be praise and glory for ever! You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

Silence

Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33. 14-16

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. 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. 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.**

Psalm 25

**Lord, I gladly trust in you:
let me not be put to shame.
As I look towards your throne
make your gracious promise known:
God my refuge and my hope,
your protective care I claim.**

**Teach me what is true and good;
let me hear and understand!
In the choices I must make
show my heart the way to take,
so that I may always tread
on the path which you have planned.**

**When my troubles multiply
you alone can bring me through:
so with all your saints I say,
'Be my strength and shield today.'
Since I know you hear my prayer,
Lord, I gladly trust in you.**

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 3. 9-13

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke 21. 25-36

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples, '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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

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

The Sermon

Stand

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercessions

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

The prayers end with:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Stand

The Peace

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine on those who live in darkness, under the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

People, look east to see at last hopes fulfilled from ages past: now in the promise of the morning, see, a brighter day is dawning, rich with visions long foretold, prophets' dreams from days of old.

God reaffirms the gracious call: words of welcome meant for all; comfort enough for all our sorrows; justice shaping new tomorrows. Mercy bears fruit in lives restored, freed to praise and serve the Lord.

Now, with the coming of the light, darkest fears are put to flight; see how the clouds of gloom are clearing, blown aside by hope's appearing. Jesus, the Light of all our days, comes and sets our hearts ablaze.

Born of our race, a child so small-hail the promised Lord of all! Nailed to a cross for our salvation, he shall rule God's new creation. Lift up your eyes, and look again: see, he come in power to reign.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father. **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.**

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The Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father, all-powerful and everliving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who in the fullness of time came among us opening to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he comes again to judge the world, revealing the light of his presence that we may behold his power and glory.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the company of heaven we proclaim the glory of your name 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.

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God, Creator of all things, Giver of life. You formed us in your own image; but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.

We give you thanks that you sent your Son to share our life; you gave him up to death that the world might be saved, and you raised him from the dead that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins: do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father, we remember Jesus Christ, your Son. Proclaiming his victorious death, rejoicing in his resurrection and waiting for him to come in glory we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Restore and revive your people, renew us and all for whom we pray with your grace and heavenly blessing, and at the last receive us with all your saints into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body for we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world: Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

During Communion

**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 ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry 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.**

Stand

The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

**God our deliverer, awaken our hearts to
prepare the way for the advent of your Son;
that, with minds purified by the grace of his
coming, we may serve you faithfully all our
days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sit for the notices etc.

Stand

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine on you and scatter the darkness from before you and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto to me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech you, O Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion + we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply
grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with
what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

