

**Welcome to worship in
Port Talbot Ministry Area
St Agnes' Church
Advent 2 - year C**

**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 ev'ry breast 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 flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out 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.**

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.

God calls us to prepare the way for Christ. Let
us each examine our own hearts and lives, open
to God's plan and seeking the ways in which
each of us must prepare to welcome him.

We light the second candle on the advent
wreath.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,
to you be praise and glory for ever! Of old you
spoke by the mouth of your prophets but in our
days you speak through your Son whom you
have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us
your people to walk in his light that we may be
found ready and watching when he comes
again in glory and judgement; 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

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, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

A reading from the prophet Malachi 3. 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Benedictus (Luke 1. 68-79)

Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour
sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken
of the hope the Christ would bring;
of his faithfulness and mercy
let each generation sing.

Long ago God made a promise
he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship
we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous
in his sight throughout our days;
now this child will be a herald
making ready all God's ways.

Let all people know salvation
through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion
bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness
see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways
where his peace is ever near.

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians 1. 3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and

more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St **Luke 3. 1-6**

Glory to you O Lord

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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.

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The Offertory Hymn

**Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the southern seas
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the longing earth be blest.**

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.**

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

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Stand

The Sending Out

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

Lord, here you have nourished us with the food of life; through our sharing in this holy sacrament teach us to judge wisely earthly things and to yearn for things heavenly. We ask this 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

**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 pris'ners 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.**

