

CHARLTON
ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Advent Eucharist



WELCOME

Everyone is welcome at St Luke's and St Thomas's for the celebration of our Parish Eucharist. Here we

- gather and prepare to worship God
- confess the ways in which we have let God down
- receive God's forgiveness
- listen to Scripture and to God's word being broken open for us
- affirm what we believe
- pray for the church, the world, our community, those in need and the departed
- share Christ's Peace and make our offerings
- celebrate Holy Communion
- receive the bread and wine
- lift our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving
- pause in silence and stillness where God's presence is often felt most powerfully
- receive a blessing and are sent out to love and serve God

We hope that everyone who comes will encounter ~~the~~ God here and leave with a desire to walk faithfully with Jesus, guided by the Spirit.

Children and young people are very precious to God and we are striving to reflect that truth in our church communities. In both our churches there are special arrangements for children. Please ask if you want to know more.

We want those taking part in our service to reflect our church communities. If you would like to read, sing, intercede, be a welcomer or serve at the altar, then please make that known to one of the clergy.

Jesus's love knows no bounds, and he has asked us to share the Good News outside our church circles. We want to grow our congregations; that means all of us having a 'culture of invitation' – being prepared to speak well of our church family and invite others to 'come and see'. St Luke's and St Thomas's are committed to all those who don't know God's great love for them – this is why we have a Mission Action Plan. More details about our vision, our mission, our values and priorities can be found in church.

We are in the season of Advent: a season of expectation and preparation, as we get ready to celebrate again the birth of Christ, and as we look to his coming as judge at the end of time. The liturgical colour is purple.

THE GATHERING

Please stand.

Introit Hymn

The Preparation

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

*The president greets the people and sets out
the eucharistic theme*

President The Lord be with you
and also with you.

(or) Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and
from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

*Minister of
the Word* 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.

Form A **Almighty God, our 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.
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.**

Form B

**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.**

Form C

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

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

The Collect

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer
with the words 'Let us pray'.
The Collect is said, and all respond*

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading

at the end of the reading ...

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

New Testament Reading

at the end of the reading ...

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

Please stand

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
 Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight,
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
 Alleluia.

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

at the end of the Gospel ...

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

After the sermon there is a period of quiet reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand.

President Let us declare our faith in God.

Form A The Nicene 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,
was incarnate
from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

Form B **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

President Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
and let us be thankful for God's goodness.

Please sit.

Prayers are offered for

- *the Church of Christ*
- *Creation, human society, the Sovereign
and those in authority*
- *the local community*
- *those who suffer*
- *the communion of saints*

After each prayer ...

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or) Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

After the final prayer ...

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

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

The candle is lit and the prayer said for the appropriate week of Advent.

Advent 1

President People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
Lord,
make us one as we walk with Christ,
today and for ever.
Amen.

Advent 2

President People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you,
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore;
for your God comes to save.
You are God's children.
Lord,
make us one in the love of Christ,
today and for ever.
Amen.

Advent 3

President

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.

God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways.

You are God's children.

Lord,

**make us one in the peace of Christ,
today and for ever.**

Amen.

Advent 4

President

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

President 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.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We all exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection is taken for the work and mission of the church, and the gifts of the people are brought to the altar.

Preparation of the Gifts

President 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 thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.
You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.
Again and again you drew us
into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law
and taught us by your prophets to look
for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch
for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise
and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you 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 gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross;
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb;
we rejoice that he reigns
at your right hand on high;
and we long for his coming in glory.
As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice
of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit
let these gifts of your creation be to us the
body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people, and
in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free, and
fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the
earth to feast with
Luke and Richard, Thomas and all your
saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to
perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty
Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

President As our Saviour 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.**

(or) Let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

(or)

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

President Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood,
which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance
that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(or)

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed 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.**

Prayer before Distribution

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat
the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord,
are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood
of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we,
with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

*All who usually receive Holy Communion,
in this church or another,
are welcome to come to the altar now.
If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep
your head bowed and do not hold out your hands.*

Communion Hymn

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion
or other suitable prayer is said.*

Notices

Final Prayer

*Minister of
the Word*

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

Please stand

President The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
and the blessing ...
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

Our worship is over: our service begins.

*You are very welcome to refreshments after the service.
If you would like to introduce yourself
or find out more about this church and its mission
please speak to one of the clergy or welcomers.*

*Please leave this service booklet behind,
but take the weekly bulletin with you.*



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND