

All Saints with St Frideswyde – Advent

Introduction

God of the cosmos, God of the humdrum, be with us today; share our gladness at our meeting, inspire our talking and our listening, enjoy our laughter and vision, and be glorified in our worship.

May your irrepressible adventurous Spirit be in us today and everyday as we journey towards all that you call us to be **Amen**

Lighting of the Advent candle – see the prayer in this week's newsletter and light a candle at home

Hymn

Prayer of Preparation

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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Creator of light and darkness, we so often chase shadows and fail to walk in the light,

Forgive us oh God,

Silence

We travel through Advent as forgiven people, lifting our faces towards the light.

Let us walk together in hope and Faith Amen

1

Prayer for the day – the Collect

Bible reading

Hymn

Gospel reading and talk

Prayers and intercessions

Hymn

Confession of faith

We believe in God robed in splendour, veiled in mystery, ruler of darkness and light.

We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of colour to a dull drab world; reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied.

We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving Spirit, who enters the places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.

We wait for God, for the fulfilment of God's promises, for the time when darkness will hold no fear and the light will be no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. Amen

Spiritual Communion

Bright star maker God travel with us through Advent, shine into our dark corners and lead us into ways of justice. Warm us with joy and wonder and bring us to new birth. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for your life, death and resurrection. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

Hymn

At this time of Advent, fire our imaginations with the sweep of your salvation. Catch us up in the cause of your Kingdom, already breaking into this world in our ransomed lives yet waiting for the final fulfilment, when Christ will come again.

And let your Spirit, wild as the wind, gentle as the dove, move within us and among us, to enliven our worship and strengthen our faith and send us out with anticipation and joy. **Amen**

God who has prepared for us a city with eternal foundations, give you grace to share the inheritance of the saints in glory, and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. **Amen**

Blessing

God calls us **to enjoy living**

God calls us **to be like Jesus**

God calls us **to life and loving, God when you call us, help us to say yes.**

Bless to us O God the road that is before us, the friends who are around us, your love which is within us. Bless to us O God your light which leads us home. **Amen**