

**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings –
encompassing
St Matthew's, Hastings & St Peter's, Riverslea**

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

1st Sunday of Advent – 1st December 2024



The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God draws near:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, true Wisdom from on high,
who orders all to mind and eye:
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to grow.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might
who long ago on Sinai's height
gave all your tribes the ancient law,
in cloud and majesty and awe:

Rejoice, rejoice!...

O come, true Branch of Jesse, free
your children from this tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
to rise victorious from the grave:

Rejoice, rejoice!...

O come, strong Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
upon our journey give relief,
and close the path to pain and grief.

Rejoice, rejoice!...

O come, bright Daystar, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:

Rejoice, rejoice!...

King of the Nations, come, embrace
and unify the human race;
command our sad division cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace.

Rejoice, rejoice!...

Jubilate Hymns version of Veni, veni, Emmanuel John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866)

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Blessing of the Advent Wreath.

The Lord be with you.

The Lord bless you.

We remain standing

For many centuries Christians have used this fire/light symbolism to represent Christ's coming into the world and has become the basis for the Advent wreath – a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wheel represents the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens are a sign of God's faithfulness to the people, even in death, and the lighted candles a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.

The priest prays:

Gracious God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.

Let your blessing come upon our faith community
gathered here before you.
Bless us and this advent wreath.
May the light that shines forth from it
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;
may the light that shines forth from it
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

As the first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, we sing:

**Light a candle bright and tall
For the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call
As the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.**

Words © 2012 David Wood. Tune Dix

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist together,
let us kneel or sit, and in silence call to mind our sins.

Silence

Jesus, you came to call us to repentance.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to share your abundant life.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come again in glory to renew the whole creation
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God forgives you.
Be at peace.

The Peace of Christ rules in our hearts.
The Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Come, O come Emmanuel,
you are the way, the truth and the life;
Come, living Saviour
come to your world which waits for you.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Lord's promise to Israel and Judah is reaffirmed, foreseeing the arrival of a messianic figure, a righteous branch who will save the people.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

To you Lord I lift up my soul, my God I have put my trust in you:

let me not be disappointed, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

For all those who hope in you shall not be ashamed:

but only those who wantonly break faith.

Make known to me your ways O Lord:

and teach me your paths.

Lead me in the way of your truth and teach me:

you are God my saviour, for you have I waited all the day long.

Call to remembrance O Lord your tender care:

and the unfailing love which you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth:

**but according to your mercy,
remember me Lord in your goodness.**

You O Lord are upright and good:

therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

You guide the humble to do what is right:

and those who are gentle you teach your way.

All your ways are loving and sure:
to those who keep your covenant and your commandments.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Paul expresses gratitude to God for his disciples in Thessalonica and tells these followers of his prayers for them.

After the reading:
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

**Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free!
from our fears and sins release us,
Christ in whom our rest shall be.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
born salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring:**

**By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.**

Jubilate Hymns version © Jubilate Hymns Ltd

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-36
Praise and glory to God.

Jesus tells his disciples of the awe-inspiring crisis to come, which they may recognise as the beginning of their time of redemption.

After the reading:
This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

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 became fully human.

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
and 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 Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

Come, Jesus, and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Peace

We stand

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.
Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn

The advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon his road
his coming reign to meet.

The everlasting Son
was born to make us free;
and he a servant's form put on
to gain our liberty

Daughter of Sion rise
to meet your lowly king;
nor let your stubborn heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
his scattered people to unite,
with them in heaven to reign.

**All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one,
through all eternity.**

Tune: Franconia.

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness,
and the power, and the glory,
and the victory and the majesty.
**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,
and of your own we give you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

We remain standing though feel free to sit it needs be.

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.
You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image
When we sinned and turned away.
you called us back to yourself
and gave your Son to share our human nature.

In his coming among us
the day of our deliverance has dawned,
and through him you will make all things new
when he comes in power and majesty to judge the world.

In him you have made us a holy people
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever 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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink 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,
to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Communion

As Christ teaches us 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread in silence and then says

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

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The Invitation

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour
Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.

Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to
receive only the bread.*

We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine.

Prayer after Communion

We praise and thank you, Creator God,
for you have not left us alone.

Each year you come to us, Emmanuel,
God with us in a manger.

Each time you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.

**In time or out of time you will be revealed
and we shall see you face to face.**

The Dismissal of the Community

May Christ be our new beginning, the hope and salvation of the world,
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with
you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**Forth in your name, O Lord, I go
my daily labour to pursue;
you, Lord, alone I long to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task your wisdom has assigned
here let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my work your presence find
and prove your good and perfect will.**

**You I would set at my right hand
whose eyes my inmost secrets view;
and labour on at your command
and offer all my work to you.**

**Help me to bear your easy yoke
and every moment watch and pray;
and still to things eternal look
and hasten to that glorious day.**

**Gladly for you may I employ
all that your generous grace has given;
and run my earthly course with joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.**

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**Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

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