

St Peter and St Paul's
Flitwick Parish Church



Welcome to
Holy Communion
Advent Season

WELCOME IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT

We are delighted you have joined us this morning.

At St Peter & St Paul's, we believe God welcomes everyone, with no exception, so no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, your age, stage of life or background, we celebrate you being here with us.

Advent means 'arrival' or 'coming' and is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares for the coming of Christ. It marks the beginning of the Church year and allows time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and movement towards a new beginning. It is a time to look backwards and forwards and challenges us to set aside time with God to prepare our hearts for the coming of His son.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW:

Readings & Hymns	Readings, music for the psalm and hymn numbers can be found on the service sheet; hymn numbers are also displayed on the hymn boards.
Prayer	If you would like someone to pray with you, please speak to the minister at the end of the service.
Hearing Loop	We have a hearing induction loop if required.
Gluten Free	If you would like to receive communion with gluten free bread, please let our welcomer know before the service.
Toilets	Toilets can be found through the glass doors at the back of church. Baby changing is available in the accessible toilet.
Giving	We are grateful for any financial gift to the church. There are many ways to give: a collection plate on the way into church, the monthly 'Parish Giving Scheme' or through our QR codes.

If there is anything you need during or after the service, please ask the people who welcomed you as you arrived or one of the ministry team.

Children & Young People

We embrace the presence of children in our services.

Your child is very welcome to stay in church with you for the service or for those children aged 3+, our Sunday Groups run weekly with games, stories, crafts and prayer.



Welcome and Church Notices



Gathering – *coming together as a community to worship*

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Opening Hymn

The choir, servers and priest will join the service whilst this hymn is sung.



Lighting the Advent Wreath

The prayers used at the lighting of the Advent candles can be found at the back of this service book.

Lighting of Candle for our Children and Young People

The candle is lit by one of our children or young people, after which we pray for them as they leave for their groups, re-joining us for communion later.



Prayer of Preparation – *preparing ourselves for worship*

All **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.**



Confession – *seeking forgiveness*

Confession is introduced with these or other appropriate words.

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

All **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.**

Absolution – *being forgiven*

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.

All **Amen.**



Collect – *the prayer for the day*

The priest prays the Collect, a special prayer for today.



Bible Reading – *listening to the word of God*

At the end the reader says:

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

The choir leads us as we join in with singing or saying the refrain of the psalm, as found in your service sheet. Alternatively, a hymn may be sung.



Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you O Christ.**



Sermon – *exploring the theme of the readings*



Prayers – *praying for the world, our community, the Church and ourselves*

This response, or another, may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

At the end:

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



Creed – *declaring what we believe*

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**



The Peace – *sharing the peace of God with one another*

The priest introduces the Peace, and we exchange peace in a way comfortable to us.

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
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Livestream Blessing

As we say goodbye to those joining us from their homes, God's blessing is offered.



Hymn

During this hymn, the altar is prepared, and the bread and wine are brought up to the altar, along with the collection. The collection is blessed.



Prayer over the Gifts – *thanking God for all he has given us*

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer – *remembering what Jesus did for us*

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.



Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing/shout your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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:
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with St Peter, St Paul and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.**



Breaking of the Bread – *as Jesus did at the Last Supper*

As the Priest breaks the bread, they say:

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

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All 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.**



Giving of Communion – *invitation to receive bread and wine*

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All are welcome to come to the altar as we take communion.

Please come forward when invited, to share bread and wine (raise your hands to receive) or to have a prayer of blessing (keep your hands at your side).

Children and young people will re-join us during communion and will come to the altar with their group leaders.



Hymn

After the choir have received communion, they will sing the communion hymn, please join in with them if you are able.

Choir Piece



Prayer after Communion – thanking God

The priest says the Post Communion Prayer for the day.

All respond

All **Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Final Hymn



Blessing – *receiving God's blessing*

The priest uses this or another suitable blessing

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



Dismissal – *sent out to be Christ's light in the world*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Prayers at the Advent Wreath

1st Week of Advent The Patriarchs - HOPE

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth,
to make our hearts ready
for your Holy Spirit to make his home
among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

2nd Week of Advent The Prophets - PEACE

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful
message of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate
his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

3rd Week of Advent John the Baptist - JOY

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in
their old age, a son called John.
He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the
Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to
wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptized
Into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our
hearts, and to grow strong in
faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

4th Week of Advent Mary - LOVE

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love
and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.



An invitation....



**If you are new here, please introduce yourself to us,
we would love to meet you.**

After every service, there is great coffee and tea,
(often cake too!) along with warm conversation ...
please come through to the hall and join us.

~~~

If you would like to find out more about the Christian faith  
or life at church, here at St Peter & St Paul's,  
please speak to a member of our ministry team  
(or anyone from our church... we are all very friendly)!

Come and join us on one of our Alpha Course to discover more...



## Contact us

[admin@flitwickchurch.org](mailto:admin@flitwickchurch.org)



[www.flitwickchurch.org](http://www.flitwickchurch.org)



01525 712369



Flitwick Parish Church

