**Advent 2C 6th December, 2015**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.*

*Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open our lips O Lord: **And we shall declare your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord. **The Lord’s name be praised.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of God’s Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH  
  
OPENING PRAYER  
We are those who wait, and welcome the renewed promise of God’s love, justice and righteousness breaking into our world.   
**In the spirit of Advent, we watch for the signs of that which is to come.**

We look for them here in this place, held within our midst in promises of joy.   
**Make your presence known to us,** **God of promise, God of joy.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is never easy for us to confess to you, Waiting God.  There are those things we have done that we would not like to remember; there are those people we have found so difficult to love; there are those we have found it all too easy to ignore and hurt. There are those times when we recognise our failure to live faithful lives.   
*A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves.*

KYRIE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the hopeful freedom of the Spirit, you are a forgiven and renewed people. Pardon and peace are yours. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

GLORIA

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May what we read, and hear, and understand, bring us closer to God. Amen.

FIRST READING

In this is the word of the Lord/ **Thanks be to God**.

PSALM

*Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria*

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:**

**and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be**

**world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING

The word of the Lord/ **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to .

**Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING

The gospel of the Lord/ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN

Sermon

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

Hymn

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

# *Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring our offerings: our time, our talents, our treasures. May these gifts be used with wisdom and justice in the church, and its mission in the name of the Risen one, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer is an act of hope: hope for inspiration, hope for communion with one another, hope for consolation and renewal. We enter a time of prayer to collect our hopes for ourselves, for others, for our world. These are those for whom we pray this day: (*silence for personal prayers)*  
Remember O God, those who have been drawn away from community and care:   
people who are homeless,  
people who struggle with addiction,   
people who are suffering isolating conditions of many kinds.   
**Empower us to play our part in offering love and support.**   
God, remember those who cannot move safely through this world:  
people who are abused in personal relationships,  
people who are persecuted for their gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation,   
people who are living in places plagued by war, disease, famine.   
**Empower us to play our part in making a safe place for all.**   
God, remember those who sit in the shadow of deathliness:  
victims of trauma; people facing terminal illness; the lonely, and those who grieve.   
**Empower us to play our part in being bearers of light.**   
Add your prayers to ours, Holy Spirit. Wait with us as we seek to understand our part in the well-being of those who wait for love. Watch over them as they hope for a world that cares enough to act with a new justice and compassion. Give to us here an energy and passion for good change and a faithfulness so that we never give up, even when we cannot see the way ahead. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

At this table, all are welcome here.

THE NARRATIVE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF 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/ I**t is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give our thanks and praise to you, O God……

….With all the company of heaven and earth we offer our praise:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

THE CONSECRATION

Compassionate God, pour your gracious Spirit on us, and on these, your simple gifts. Fill us with the broken bread that we might be made whole; touch our parched lips with the cup of salvation, so we might proclaim your gospel. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD  
May the Bread that is broken make us whole, so we may speak peace to a world which chokes on violence and death. *The bread is broken.*   
May the Cup that is shared open our hearts to the pain of those around us, so we may be those who offer healing and hope. *The cup is lifted*  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward in double*

*file down the centre aisle to receive the elements, and return by the side aisles.*

*If you are unable to come forward for communion, please indicate to the ushers*

*who will arrange for communion to be brought to you. There is wine in the*

*chalice and grape juice in the glasses Please place empty glasses in the baskets.*

COMMUNION MOTET

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Fed and renewed by the life of Christ in us, and in company with God’s Spirit, we are sent forth to carry God’s love and compassion into the world. Amen

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

HYMN

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

As our time our worship concludes, our time of service begins. As we go, let us be open to all the blessings that surround us, and may this awareness produce hope in our spirit. Let us go forward into this day: compassionate of heart, gentle in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in hope, generous in love. May the way of Jesus be our path, and hope be our guide as we walk together in the love of God. **Amen**.

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude, or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen*

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church*

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Soloist

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

Assistant Organist Christopher Bridge

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

Copyright material © ST5772

***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge***

***after the service.***