



## Advent

*A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'*  
*cf John 1.23*

**Parishes of Elstead,  
Thursley, Shackleford and  
Peper Harow**

**8am, St James**

**Advent 4**

PARISHES  
OF  
ELSTEAD.  
THURSLEY.



SHACKLEFORD.  
PEPER HAROW

## What is Advent?

Advent is the first season of the Church's year, and always has four Sundays in it.

In Advent, we wait in hope and longing for the arrival of Jesus Christ. During this time we try to deepen our faith and draw closer to God in prayer and worship. Advent is a time of preparation. During this time we get ready to celebrate the arrival of Jesus - his birth in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

We have an Advent Wreath of four candles, one for each Sunday of the season, with a white candle in the centre for Christmas Day. Each of the Advent Candles has a different meaning. The first Advent Candle is for all of God's people and is the candle of hope. The second Advent candle is for the Old Testament prophets who foretold Jesus' birth and is the candle of peace. The third Advent candle is for John the Baptist who asked us to prepare our hearts to welcome God, so it is also the candle of love. The final candle is for Mary, the mother of Jesus, who joyfully carried the Saviour, so it is the candle of joy. Four candles representing hope, peace, love, and joy.

During Advent, we pray:  
Come Lord  
Come down  
Come in  
Come among us  
Amen

## **The Gathering**

*Please stand for the opening hymn*

## **The Greeting**

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

*Please be seated*

*Words of welcome and notices are given*

## **Advent 4**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.  
May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him  
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,  
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.  
**Amen.**

*The fourth Advent Candle is lit*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.  
Amen.**

### **Confession**

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.  
*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

*After a short silence*

Heavenly Father,  
you have created a universe of light:  
forgive us when we return to darkness.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you are the light of the world:  
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you give us light in our hearts:  
renew us in faith and love.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **St Mary's Shackleford**

***1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:***

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – Alternating with Peper Harow:***

9.30am, Holy Communion Service

*We hope we have something for everyone! Come  
and see....*

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow  
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## Services in the Parishes

### St James, Elstead

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:**

10am, Holy Communion Service

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month:**

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

10.30am, Informal Family Service with a worship band, craft and activities

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month:**

10am, Holy Communion Service

### St Michael's and All Angles, Thursley

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:**

9.30am, Holy Communion Service

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month:**

8am, Holy Communion Service

### St Nicholas, Peper Harow

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:**

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – Alternating with Shackleford:**

9.30am, Holy Communion Service



In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to all who dwell in darkness and the shadow  
of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace

Luke 1:78,79



Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Collect**

*The Collect is a short prayer that collects all our thoughts,  
dreams and prayers before God.*

*A period of silent prayer is introduced with the words*

*'Let us Pray'*

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

**Amen.**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

*Please be seated*

### **Reading/s**

*At the end of the reading the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence may be kept*

*The weekly post communion or another suitable prayer is  
said.*

*All may say the following prayer*

**Lord, we have broken your bread  
and received your life.**

**By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

### **The Blessing and Sending Out**

#### **The Blessing**

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 of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### **The Sending Out**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord.

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

## **Breaking of the Bread**

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.**

## **The Lamb of God**

**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**

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.

*Please stand for a hymn before the Gospel*

*Please remain standing for the Gospel*

## **Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

*cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

**Alleluia.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Profession 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,  
he became 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.**

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through 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**

*Please be seated*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words  
our Saviour 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.**

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**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole  
world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Let us pray*

God of love,  
**Hear our prayer**  
*Or*  
Lord, hear us  
**Lord, graciously hear us**

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

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*Please stand*

## **The Peace**

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.

*All may exchange a sign of peace by shaking hands and  
by saying "Peace be with you".*

## Preparation of the Table

### Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited 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.

**Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*Please sit or stand during the Eucharistic Prayer*

*All are welcome to come to the altar to receive  
communion or a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available  
– please indicate whether you require this option.*

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.**

*From the 17 December until Christmas Eve*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.  
In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in  
prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: