

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I December, 2024

Holy, righteous, and merciful God, enable us by your grace to offer true worship and joyful service. Cleanse our minds and free our consciences from the things that hide you from us, and unite us one with another in the fellowship of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

247 *Vox clara ecce intonat 6th century, trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

**Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'**

**Startled at the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heav'n;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiv'n.**

**So when next he comes with glory,  
wrapping all the earth in fear,  
may he then, as our defender,  
on the clouds of heav'n appear.**

**Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit,  
while unending ages run.**

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

**And also with you.**

*A prayer for purity of heart*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleans 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.**

*The Summary of the Law*

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.**

*Invitation to 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.

*Confession*

**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.**

*The Kyrie is sung:*

**Lord have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord have mercy.**

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. **Amen.**

*The Gloria in Excelsis is sung:*

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Jeremiah 33.14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Psalms 25*

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**2 O my God, in you I trust;**

**do not let me be put to shame;**

**do not let my enemies exult over me.**

3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;**

**teach me your paths.**

5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

**6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**8 Good and upright is the Lord;**

**therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

9 He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

*1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*59 Unknown, based on Psalm 46*

**Be still and know that I am God.** (x3)

**I am the Lord that healeth thee.** (x3)

**In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.** (x3)

*The Gospel Luke 21.25-36*

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.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise

your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Sermon*

*The Creed*

**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 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.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

*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.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

*During the singing of the hymn, the collection will be received.*

*413 Philip Posey (1799-1855), based on the German of Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern (1594-1648) alt.*

**Lord of our life,  
and God of our salvation,  
star of our night,  
and hope of ev'ry nation,  
hear and receive  
thy Church's supplication,  
Lord God almighty.**

**Lord, thou canst help  
when earthly armour faileth,  
Lord, thou canst save  
when deadly sin assaileth;  
Christ, o'er thy rock  
nor death nor bell prevaieth;  
grant us thy peace, Lord.**

**Peace in our hearts,  
our evil thoughts assuaging;  
peace in thy Church,  
where people are engaging;  
peace, when the world  
its busy war is waging:  
calm all our raging.**

**Grant us thy grace  
through trial and temptation,  
grant us thy truth,  
thy promise of salvation,  
grant us thy peace  
in ev'ry heart and nation,  
and in thy heaven.**

*The Communion Prayer*

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.



Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory 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.**

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:

**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. Andrew 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:  
**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:

**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.**

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 Agnus Dei is sung:*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*Invitation to 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.

*We are now offering both bread and wine at communion. The Church teaches that Holy Communion is received fully in just the consecrated bread, so please do not worry if you would prefer not to receive the wine. Indeed, if you have not been or are not feeling well, we would ask you not to receive the wine. **Please do not intinct** (dip your wafer in the wine) as this carries an increased risk of transmitting infection. The administrant will only offer you the cup to drink from.*

*Мы снова причащаем наших прихожан хлебом и вином. Церковь учит нас, что Святое Причастие полностью заключается в одном освящённом хлебе. Так что, если вы не хотите причащаться вином, не смущайтесь —вы в праве этого не делать. Более того, если вы только что болели или всё ещё нездоровы, мы просим вас не причащаться вином. Пожалуйста, **не обмакивайте облатку в Чаше**, так как это может увеличить риск распространения инфекции. Чаша даётся только для того, чтобы отпить из неё.*

*Post-communion collect:*

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you  
our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

*Notices*

*The Blessing and Dismissal*

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

*515 Michael Forster (b. 1946) © 1996 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

**Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
Christ will be our light;  
see, the heav'nly vision  
breaks upon our sight!  
Out of death's enslavement  
Christ has set us free,  
on then to salvation,  
hope and liberty.**

**Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
Christ will be our light;  
see, the heav'nly vision  
breaks upon our sight!  
Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
up the rocky way,  
where the dying Saviour  
bids us watch and pray.  
Through the darkened valley  
walk with those who mourn,  
share the pain and anger,  
share the promised dawn!**

**Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
in the early dawn;  
death's great seal is broken,  
life and hope reborn!  
Faith in resurrection  
strengthens pilgrims' hearts,  
ev'ry load is lightened,  
ev'ry fear departs.**

**Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
hearts and voices raise,  
till the whole creation  
echoes perfect praise;  
swords are turned to ploughshares,  
pride and envy cease,  
truth embraces justice,  
hope resolves in peace.**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST ANDREW'S

Every week we have services on Sunday at 9am and 11am.  
Morning Prayer is live streamed Monday – Friday at 8:30am  
on our YouTube channel, St. Andrew's Anglican Church Moscow,

## FOR OUR WEEKLY UPDATES

Sign up to our Telegram channel  
or our Whatsapp group

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CcCJ2r3LgXDIqljZADH5uQ>

## LEARNING TO PRAY AND READ THE BIBLE

A link to **Morning and Evening prayer** online

[www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)

A link to the **Bible** app [www.bible.com/app](http://www.bible.com/app)

## GIVING TO THE WORK OF ST ANDREW'S



As well as the collection, there is a card terminal in the foyer or, if you have a Sberbank account, you can use this QR code.

You can also give by visiting

[www.moscowanglican.org/roubles](http://www.moscowanglican.org/roubles)

Or, if you are overseas, by visiting

[www.moscowanglican.org/donate](http://www.moscowanglican.org/donate)

Религиозная Организация "Англиканская церковь в Москве"

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