

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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 forever. Amen**

### **Closing Responses**

He came where least expected; anticipated but unwelcome,  
**Proclaiming truth and reconciliation, yet denied, rejected and executed.**

He comes when we least want him; alternative and radical,  
**The one who proclaims justice and freedom, with the message we try not to hear, the call we try to avoid.**

And he will keep coming,  
**The wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace, drawing all peoples to himself.**

### **Blessing and Peace**

May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and those whom you love, this day and for evermore. **Amen**

Now may the God of peace, who out of love, sent his only Son, the light of the world, open the eyes of our hearts by his Holy Spirit, so that we may be led into fullness of life, this day and forever more. **Amen**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

AD2 – HC - H



St Paul's

## **ADVENT SERVICE**

### **Invitation to worship**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light,  
**On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**

The God of creation, the God of history,  
**Is here with us now.**

The God made flesh in Jesus,  
**Is here with us now.**

The God of mystery, the God of blessing,  
**Is here with us now.**

The wonderful counsellor,  
the mighty God, I am,  
**The everlasting Father,  
the Prince of peace.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
**The Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness,  
**And the darkness has not overcome it.**

### **Confession and assurance of forgiveness**

**O Lord our God, in our sin and our wealth and comfort, we have avoided your call and failed to live with integrity of word and deed. Our hope in you is like a morning cloud, and like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy upon us, as those who have been far off, and give us again the joy of being brought home on your shoulders, rejoicing. Amen**

O Lord our God, forgive us and bring us back to you. Give us integrity as we seek the truth, hope as we thirst for justice, and joy as we seek to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour. **Amen**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, the eternal Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

**The creator of all, who cares for his good creation, detests injustice, and loves us as a mother loves her children; and yet, at times seems distant and remote from this world's suffering.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

**Who was born in poverty in Bethlehem in a country under occupation, escaped genocide and became a refugee. Who taught the way of peace and forgiveness, challenged the pursuit of money, denounced the dogma of the religious, touched the untouchables and scandalised polite society; and yet tells us our names are engraved on the palms of his hands and asks only that we trust him.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the comforter and counsellor, who strengthens us with power from on high.

**Who comes from the Father and Son, to guide and comfort, to transform our fear and grant us peace; and yet challenges and convicts us, to shine the light and life of God, which the darkness can never overcome, into our hurting world today.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy spirit. Amen.**

## **A Dalit Prayer**

God of all places and this place: you promised a new earth where the hungry will feast and the oppressed go free.

**Come Lord, build that place among us.**

God of all times and this time: you promised a new day when the fearful will laugh and the sick find healing.

**Come Lord, speed that time among us.**

God of all people, our God: take what we have and what we hope for, make a world in which the poor can find good news.

**Come Lord, may we share in your work,  
until the new earth is created among us.**

God of all, help those who live on the margins – forgotten, despised, dependent. Restore their dignity and self-respect.

**Come Lord, walk with us, so we live out justice, walk with humility and arise in hope. Amen**

## **Communion (H)**

The Lord is here.

**His 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 give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and 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.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of  
him: his body is the bread of life.**

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 for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of  
him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**