



The Seasons of Advent & Christmas

SERVANTS
of **CHRIST**
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Advent is the beginning of the Church year. We wait with anticipation for Jesus' birth while we also contemplate how we should live while we wait for Him to come again.

Christmastide is 12 days of feasting in honor of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During the season we marvel at the salvation that has come into the world, the promise of Jesus' reign, and the joy we have as adopted sons and daughters of God.

Holy Communion

Welcome & Announcements

Advent: Lighting of the Wreath

Processional

Please stand as you are able.

Advent: The Acclamation

Celebrant Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

Christmastide: The Acclamation

Celebrant For unto us a child is born,

People **Unto us a son is given.**

The Collect for Purity

Please remain standing as you are able.

All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may**

In Advent we light candles, observe a time of silent prayer, and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel as a reminder that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). Advent & Christmas remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and the Word of God.

The cross, a symbol of Christ in our worship, leads us to the altar, reminding us that our way to God is through Jesus.

With these words we affirm to one another and God why we've come together to worship.

A "collect" collects our prayers together in unity. This prayer acknowledges our need for help to worship God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remembering the focus of our faith—to love God and others—gives us opportunity to reflect on what is most important.

The Summary of the Law

Celebrant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

As we reflect, we recognize and state our need for mercy because we routinely fail to love God and our neighbors.

The Kyrie

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Christmastide: The Gloria

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Children are an important part of our church and worship. Jesus said, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). We bring the children forward so that they can know that God invites them to come and know Him.

Children’s Sermon

Please be seated.

Children in Kindergarten through 3rd grades are invited to come forward for the children’s sermon and then attend Children’s Church. The children will return at the Peace. You may pick up your nursery-aged children for Holy Communion at the Peace as well.

A “collect” collects our prayers together in unity. This prayer changes each week and focuses our prayers for the week ahead.

The Collect of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with your spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated.

The readings for the day can be found in the weekly bulletin.

The Lector gives a citation giving chapter and verse then reads the Scripture.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Psalm.

The Psalm is typically read responsively by half-verse, led by the Lector with the People responding.

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

People **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Please be seated for the second reading.

The Lector gives a citation giving chapter and verse then reads the Scripture.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. _____.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Deacon or Priest appointed reads the Gospel.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Please be seated.

The Bible is one coherent story so we read from different parts, desiring to hear God speak to us through His Word.

We sing a chorus before and after the Gospel reading as we prepare our hearts for the sermon.

This is a sufficient statement of the Christian faith – what all Christians everywhere have always believed to be true. The term “Nicene” refers to its origins at the Council of Nicaea (a gathering of the whole Church) in 325 A.D. We say this each week as a reminder of what is most important to believe and what unites us as Christians.

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten 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 in to 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
worshiped 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.**

Advent: Prayers of the People

After each bidding, the People are invited to offer specific prayers aloud.

Reader In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign.

We pray for the church...

(Pray for our church and leaders, pray for other congregations in Gainesville, and Christians around the world.)

Reader Come Lord Jesus,
People and hear our prayer.

Reader Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations.

We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

(Pray for areas where there is ongoing conflict, both within our nation and around the world. Pray for global and local leaders, and for governments.)

Reader Come Lord Jesus,
People and hear our prayer.

Reader In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear.

We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind...

(Pray for those who need healing in body, mind, and spirit. Pray for the grieving. Pray for the poor. Pray for refugees, widows, and orphans.)

We invite you to pray silently or aloud according to each of the prompts. If you pray aloud, please pray boldly and briefly so that others may hear and pray with you.

Reader Come Lord Jesus,
People and hear our prayer.
Reader In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness
and dry land are glad and rejoice.
We pray with and for those who rejoice this
week...

(Offer specific thanksgivings to God for all the blessings of this life.)

Reader Come Lord Jesus,
People and hear our prayer.
Reader In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son,
to be born of our sister Mary.
And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We
thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray
that you might be always present with those
whom we love but see no longer.

Reader Come Lord Jesus,
People and hear our prayer.
Celebrant Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so
that when your Son Jesus comes among us with
great might, and in manger mild, we might
recognize his face and his voice, and come to
adore him. **Amen.**

Christmastide: The Prayers of the People

Please kneel as you are able.

Reader Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
saying, "hear our prayer." For the peace of the
whole world, and for the well-being and unity of
the people of God.

Lord, in your mercy:

People Hear our prayer.

Reader For Foley, our Archbishop, and Alex, our Bishop,
and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese
and Congregation.

Lord, in your mercy:

People Hear our prayer.

*We invite you to listen to each
prompt and pray silently. At the
end of the litany we will invite
you to pray aloud.*

Reader For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad, especially our mission partners, and for all who teach and disciple others.

Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith, especially in ____; and for those who persecute your people.

Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service.

Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Reader We invite you to offer your intercessions and thanksgivings silently or aloud.

An extended time of silence follows so you may pray silently or aloud.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Now that we are reminded of what is broken and painful in this life, we confess our sin (our rebellion against God), because it is the underlying cause of all that pains this world.

Having confessed our sin and our need for a Savior, the priest reminds us of God's incredible mercy and forgiveness, pronouncing God's absolution (forgiveness) of our sins.

Having received God's forgiveness, we express that we have been reconciled to God and one another by sharing the peace we now have through Jesus. We do this before the offering because Jesus says, "First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:24).

The Confession

Please remain kneeling as you are able.

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence.

All

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have
left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in
your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord. Parents may now pick up their children ages 4 and under from the nursery if they desire. Nursery is available through the end of the service. Children in Kindergarten through 3rd grades will return from Children's Church at this time.

The Offering and Doxology

During the Offertory hymns or songs may be sung. The Deacon or Priest prepares the Holy Table for the celebration.

Please be seated for the offertory hymn.

Please stand for the Doxology and while the offerings are presented at the altar.

The Sursum Corda

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

Advent because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Christmastide because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

In response to all that God has done for us, we worship God by giving of our finances and raising our voices together in song.

Literally meaning “Lift up your hearts” the Sursum Corda begins a prayer of great thanksgiving to God for the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please remain standing or kneeling as you are able.

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

All **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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer as a model for how to pray (Luke 11:1–4). The Lord's Prayer roughly breaks down into three types of prayers: Praise (Thank you), Petition (Please), and Penitence (Sorry). We pray this each week to remind us how Jesus taught us to pray.

As we hear the sound of the bread being broken, we remember the cost of Christ's sacrifice for us.

In the Sacrament we partake of God's past, present, and future grace. The physical bread and wine nourish us with the spiritual presence of Jesus.

In response to all we have heard, learned, and experienced during the service, we turn our hearts to sing praises to our God.

We give thanks for the feast we have partaken in and prepare to go back into the world to labor for his kingdom.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Ministration of Communion

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You may be seated.

The Ministers receive the Sacrament and then give it to the People.

During Communion, songs or hymns may be sung.

All baptized and believing Christians are invited to participate in communion. If you would like to drink from the chalice for communion, please consume the bread when it is given to you. If you would prefer to dip your bread in the wine, please hold onto the bread and dip it in the chalice. Gluten-free bread is available. Simply cross your hands palm-down as a sign to the priest and it will be brought to you. If for any reason, you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing from a priest. Trained members of the prayer team are available during communion in the alcoves under the exit signs for any prayer needs that you may have.

The Post Communion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Heavenly Father,
We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your
Son,
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you
have
given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of
Christ our Lord.

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives this or an alternate blessing.

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As we go out into the world, we receive God's blessing which empowers us to do the work before us.

Recessional

We follow the cross out into the world, remembering that Jesus goes before us in all things.

The Dismissal

Deacon All our problems:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our difficulties:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All the devil's works:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our hopes:

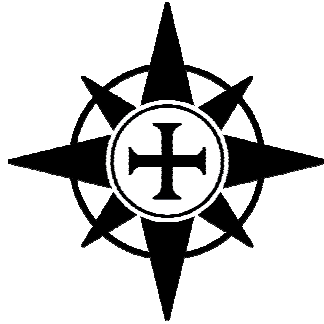
People **We set on the risen Christ.**

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

To honor our parish's origins in the Anglican Church of Kenya, we use the dismissal form from their Prayer Book.

Updated 11/2024



SERVANTS
of CHRIST
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

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