

Service for Week 24th – 30th Nov. 2025

Advent Sunday By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember during this Advent season that though people longed for your coming, many were not prepared to welcome you, failing to recognize you when you came.

Forgive us that we are equally closed sometimes to you coming into our lives. Teach us to live each day open to what you would do in us and though us.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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 them 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

Bible Reading Romans 13:11-14

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

This coming Sunday is Advent Sunday the start of Advent and yes it really is just four weeks to Christmas, and it is the start of the Christian year in the church. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." And the focus of these weeks leading up to Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus in the First Advent, and the presence of Christ today in our lives. In Advent and Christmas, we celebrate how God came in the divine and human person of Jesus which enabled each of us to have a relationship with God through Jesus.

Paul in his letter to the early followers of Christ in Rome urges them to be alert. He tells them that they must not be lulled to sleep by indulgence in earthly pleasures. Paul writes that "our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." He says 'the night is nearly over, the day is almost here.' Paul pictures those who follow Christ as those who anticipate the day by rising early. The night clothes are the



works of darkness, the deeds that belong to the old life. The garments to which they put on, however, are unusual. They are likened to armor. To walk through this world as children of light involves a warfare with the powers of darkness.

Paul's plea is this, "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime." There should be no place for conduct such as intemperance sexual misconduct, and contention and quarreling. In conclusion, the apostle returns to the subject of putting on clothing but now the garment is personalized: they must put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

They must consciously accept Christ, but how can Paul say this when believers have already accepted Christ and been baptized.? There is always room for decisive renewal, for fresh advance. His message is that in order to be to be one with Christ there must be a constant reckoning of oneself as dead to sin and alive to God and his holy will.

This time of Advent is a time to prepare to deepen and strengthen ones faith, to ensure that we really are more prepared and ready. It is a time to be sure that we have got our priorities right, that our relationship with ourselves and others is good and most importantly that our love of God

and our relationship with him through Jesus Christ is renewed strengthened.

How can we draw closer to God through Jesus Christ during Advent? We can start, if we don't do this already, by having a short time of prayer each day to ourselves when we are on our own. During those times we can consider what having a personal faith in God really means to us and the help that has brought during difficult times in life. Perhaps reflecting on the past year, of all the blessings and good things that we have enjoyed and appreciated. We can also bring to God our hopes for the future for ourselves and our families. To bring us fresh inspiration we can make a point of reading or hearing from the gospels that wonderful account of when Jesus came and was born to Mary.

In that way, during Advent we are as Paul describes it putting on the Lord Jesus Christ as our armor -our protection against all the negative things the world may throw at us. It is our strength for the future, and a very present help in times of trouble.

Amen

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, open my heart to welcome your loving presence into my life, and so I may rejoice in your love not just in this time of Advent but always.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.