

# PARISH EUCHARIST

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025



THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, SERVING  
CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

# Everyone Welcome!

Welcome to our Parish Eucharist service for the Third Sunday of Advent. You will be guided by the welcome team to receive communion at the appropriate time.

We have gluten free communion wafers for those with gluten allergies. Please let one of the welcome team know if you would like to receive one at communion. If you are hard of hearing, we have a hearing loop in church. Please turn your hearing aid to the appropriate position to use it. Large print copies of this service booklet are available.

Sunday Club is running today in the Ark.

Sunday Club (Reception to Year 6) usually runs every 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month in the Ark during term time.

STAY (Year 7 upwards) usually runs in the Ark every 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of each month in the Ark during term time.

The children's area is open and toys are available for younger children there. Please would parents supervise their children using this area and tidy toys away afterwards.

Please do join us for refreshments in The Ark following the service.

To request more information about our church activities please scan the QR code to the right or contact the church office by telephone or email - details on the back page.



If you would like to make a donation to the ministry and mission of this church you can do so by leaving a donation in the collection plate, using the contactless terminal by the main church door or scanning the QR code here:



*The responses and prayers in **BOLD** type are said by the whole congregation*

*Please stand for the hymn (A&M 41)*

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,**

Once for favoured sinners slain;

Thousand thousand saints attending

Swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him

Robed in dreadful majesty;

Those who set at naught and sold him,

Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,

Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,

Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion

Still his dazzling body bears,

Cause of endless exultation

To his ransomed worshippers:

With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture

Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,

High on thine eternal throne;

Saviour, take the power and glory,

Claim the kingdom for thine own:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

*Please sit for the welcome and notices.*

*The third Advent candle is lit.*

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptised into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen**

## Prayers of Preparation and Penitence

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

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.  
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,  
and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*We sing the Kyrie eleison:*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, 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 Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the hymn (A&M 52)*

**The people that in darkness sat**

a glorious light have seen;  
the light has shined on them who long  
in shades of death have been.

2. To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
the gathering nations come;  
they joy as when the reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.

3. For unto us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulder ever rests  
all power in earth and heaven.

4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
the everlasting Lord,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the God by all adored.

5. His righteous government and power  
shall over all extend;  
on judgement and on justice based,  
his reign shall have no end.

6. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
and make us thine alone,  
who with the Father ever art  
and Holy Spirit One.

*Please remain standing for the Gospel*

*Matthew 11:2-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: **Glory to you O Lord.**

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

*Please sit*

**The Sermon**

*Please stand*

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The end of each prayer concludes with 'Lord, in your mercy' to which we respond:*  
**Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end: 'Merciful Father' to which we respond*

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please stand for 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign or a word of peace.

## **Preparation of the Table**

*Hymn (A&M 39)*

**Hills of the North, rejoice,**  
River and mountain-spring,  
Hark to the advent voice;  
Valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness  
and love,  
He brings salvation from above.

2. Isles of the Southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on every breeze  
Hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.

3. Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
your seers have longed to know  
their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.

4. Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey home,  
Songs be in every mouth,  
Lo, from the North they come,  
From East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
In him the universe be blest.



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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, 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: 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.

**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.

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 St Andrew 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.**

*(Sunday Club parents please collect your children from The Ark now)*

Let us pray with confidence as 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.**

### **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.**

### **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.

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*We sing:*

**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.**

*If you are a communicant member of any Christian Church you are welcome to take communion with us, or if you would prefer a blessing please bring this booklet with you when you are invited to the communion rail.*

*While communion is being taken the choir will sing the hymn 'Come, thou Redeemer of the earth' (A&M 32) and the anthem 'O come divine Messiah'*

## Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Sunday Club tell us about their morning's activities*

*Please stand*

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

*Hymn (A&M 47)*

**People, look east to see at last**  
Hopes fulfilled from ages past:  
Now in the promise of the morning,  
See, a brighter day is dawning,  
Rich with the visions long foretold,  
Prophets' dreams from days of old.

2. God reaffirms the gracious call:  
Words of welcome meant for all;  
Comfort enough for all our sorrows;  
Justice shaping new tomorrows.  
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,  
Freed to praise and serve the Lord.

3. Now, with the coming of the light,  
Darkest fears are put to flight;  
See how the clouds of gloom are clearing,  
Blown aside by hope's appearing.  
Jesus, the Light of all our days,  
Comes and sets our hearts ablaze.

4. Born of our race, a child so small -  
Hail the promised Lord of all!  
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,  
He shall rule God's new creation.  
Lift up your eyes, and look again:  
See, he comes in power to reign!

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

*Organ Voluntary*

# Parish News

**TONIGHT - BEERS & CAROLS** will take place at The Bull at 6pm hosted by the Sunday At Six team.

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER - NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** - This candlelit service takes place at 5pm and is followed by wine and mince pies. Please note there is no admittance to the church before 4.30pm due to the choir rehearsing so please don't arrive early as there is nowhere to wait inside. Also due to the Messy Church Christmas party in the Ark, the Ark toilets will be closed - please use those in the St Sarik Room instead.

**INVITATION TO LUNCH** - On your own or feeling lonely at Christmas. Would you like to join the Craigs after church on Christmas Day for Christmas dinner? Please let us know by Sunday 21st.

*Helen and Kenneth Craig*

**FRANK GLASSPOOL RIP** - Frank's funeral will take place in church on Tuesday 23 December at 11.30am.

## Christmas Services

### **Beers and Carols at The Bull**

Sunday 14 December at 6pm

### **Messy Church Christmas**

Sunday 21 December at 3pm in The Ark

### **Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols**

Sunday 21 December at 5pm followed by wine & mince pies  
(no entry before 4.30pm due to choir rehearsal)

### **Crib Service**

Christmas Eve at 4pm for all ages

### **Midnight Mass The Birth of Christ**

Christmas Eve at 11pm

### **Christmas Communion**

Christmas Day at 10.30am

## Prayers and Pastoral Visiting

The Ministry Team are always happy to visit, pray for or take home Communion to those in need. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to arrange this.

**We remember any who have died who are known to us:**

Frank Glasspool

**We remember any whose anniversaries fall around this time:**

Irene Bailey, Thomas Scrivenor

## The Week Ahead

### Tuesday 16 December

12 noon	Rendezvous Christmas Lunch	The Ark
---------	----------------------------	---------

### Wednesday 17 December

10.00am	Holy Communion	The Ark
5.30pm	Sonning Primary School Carol Service	Church
8.00pm	Wednesday at 8 ( <i>gemmajanewest@hotmail.co.uk for details</i> )	

### Thursday 18 December

7.30pm	Bellringing practice	Bell tower
8.00pm	Thursday at 8 ( <i>helen.craig50@gmail.com for details</i> )	

### Friday 19 December

6.30pm	Senior choir practice	St Sarik
6.45pm	STAY on Friday	The Ark

### Sunday 21 December

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Church
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	Church
3.00pm	Messy Church Christmas Party	The Ark
5.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Church

## Parish Contacts

**Vicar:** Revd Jamie Taylor 0118 969 3298 [vicar@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@sonningparish.org.uk)  
(off duty Friday)

**Youth Minister:** Chris West 07946 224 106 [youthminister@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:youthminister@sonningparish.org.uk)

**Youth & Children's Minister:** Corinne Robertson [corinne@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:corinne@sonningparish.org.uk)

**Parish Office Manager:** Hilary Rennie 0118 969 3298 [office@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:office@sonningparish.org.uk)

*The Parish Office is open from 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday. At all other times please leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.*