



Parish Of Oxton
Growing Together in Christ



Advent

Carol Service

The Service of Light

The Service of Light is led from the back of the church

Please stand as the procession enters, and turn to face the back of church as the procession reaches the Baptistry

A minister processes to the top of the aisle with a lit candle

Minister The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Minister Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, eternal creator of light and darkness. In this season of Advent, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendour of your glory, made flesh and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence.

Strengthen us in our weakness; support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will, and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

Lighted tapers are brought among the congregation to light their candles

Please pass the light along the pew

When all the candles are lit, a minister says:

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

Romans 13: 11b-12

Minister The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

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

Minister Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined.

All **We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

Minister For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

All **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

The Choir sings an Introit

*We remain standing to sing **Hymn I** (processional hymn)*

Bidding Prayer

Please sit

The Officiant says

My brothers and sisters, we celebrate at this time the beginning of the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

The whole congregation prays silently, after which the Officiant draws the prayers together in the Collect for Advent Sunday

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.

Readings and Music for Advent

Please remain seated for the **First Reading**

Either: Psalm 118: 19-29; or Genesis 1: 1-5

After the reading, please remain seated as the choir sings an Anthem
We stand for **Hymn 2**

We sit for the **Second Reading**

Either: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7; or Isaiah 60: 1-5a

After the reading, please stand for **Hymn 3**

We sit for the **Third Reading**

Either: Isaiah 7: 10-15; or Isaiah 9: 2,3,6,7

After the reading, please remain seated as the choir sings an Anthem

We remain seated for the **Fourth Reading**

Either: Romans 12: 1-2; or I Thessalonians 5: 1-11,23,34

After the reading, we stand for **Hymn 4**

Please sit for the **Fifth Reading**

Either: Matthew 25: 1-13; or John 3: 16-21

After the reading, please remain seated as the choir sings an Anthem
We stand for **Hymn 5**

Address

The church lights are put on, and we extinguish our candles

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel for these or other suitable prayers of intercession

Minister In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid,
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. *(Silence)*

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us
a longing for your kingdom.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Come to your world as King of the nations. *(Silence)*

Before you rulers will stand in silence. Grant to all peoples
a foretaste of your kingdom.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. *(Silence)*

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. *(Silence)*

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. *(Silence)*

Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen**

We stand for **Hymn 6** (offertory hymn)

Conclusion

Please sit or kneel for the concluding responses and the blessing

Officiant Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

All show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Officiant Will you not give us life again

All that your people may rejoice in you?

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord,

All and grant us your salvation.

Officiant 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.

All Amen.

We stand for **Hymn 7** (recessional hymn)

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