



Advent Eucharist



Please do not take this service book home with you, unless it will be a blessing to you.

Welcome to St Andrew's
May God's peace be with you

If this is your first time at St Andrew's:

- The hymns are on the service sheet or in the red hymn book.
- The Bible readings are also in the service sheet.
- Please use this booklet to follow the rest of the service.
- Toilets are available through the arch beside the main entrance.
- On the left-hand side of this booklet are some explanations about the service and some words to help with our private prayers. Follow the service on the right-hand pages.

Children are so very welcome at St Andrew's:

- There is a children's corner at the front right of the church, for younger children accompanied by an adult.
- Children's activities for older children happen in the Godly play space and at the large table at the back left of church.
- There are baby changing facilities in the toilets.
- Do not be worried if your child is noisy. They are just worshipping in their own way!

After the service:

- Why not stay for refreshments? - a chance for us all to get to know each other better.
- If you would like to discuss anything about today's worship or the Christian faith, do have a word with one of the clergy.

The president welcomes the congregation and makes any announcements.

The Gathering

Introit

Opening Hymn

Please stand

The Greeting

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

All Amen

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All 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.

Advent is a special time of preparation before Christmas.

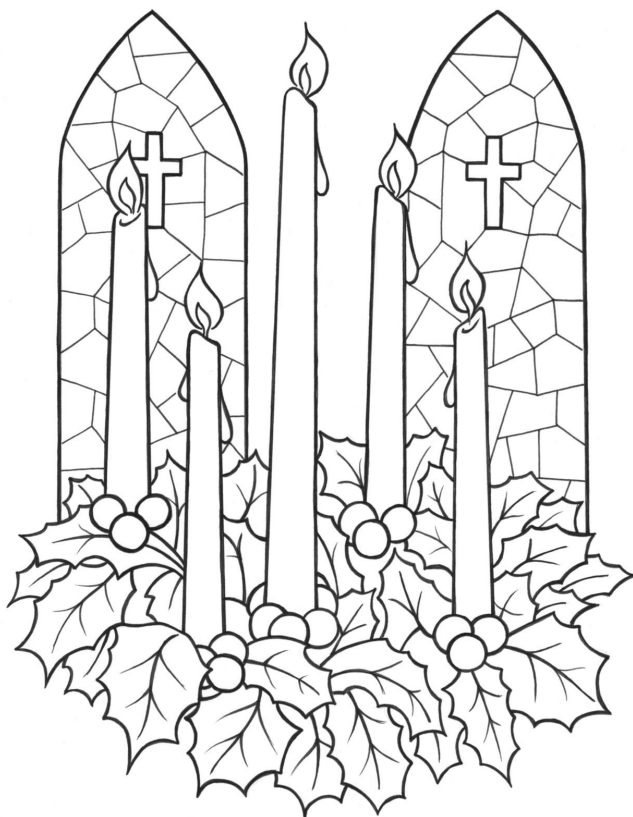
The Advent Wreath is a tradition in the church which goes back to the Middle Ages.

The wreath is made out of evergreen leaves symbolising everlasting life.

The circle of the wreath symbolises the eternal love of God which has no beginning and no end.

The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore on the cross.

Each week in Advent we light a different candle, with the final candle symbolising Jesus, the coming light of the world.



Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

During a time of silence, candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.

In the first week of Advent, the church remembers the patriarchs and matriarchs.

These fathers and mothers who are our ancestors in the faith were called to live by the light of faith and to journey with God.

We are all called to journey with God in the light of faith, but instead we choose darkness.

We pray for help to return to following in God's way.



In the first week of Advent, we say:

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy

The service continues with the Absolution, on page 15

In the second week of Advent, the church remembers the prophets.

In ancient times, God spoke by the mouth of the prophets, showing the people of God the way of righteousness, and giving them the message of a coming Saviour.

Just as the prophets called the people into the ways of righteousness, we too are called to listen to God's truth and to follow his ways.



In the second week of Advent, we say:

Heavenly Father,
you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

All Lord, have mercy.

The service continues with the Absolution, on page 15

In the third week of Advent, the church remembers John the Baptist.

John was Jesus' cousin and he was called by God to prepare the way for Jesus.

Though John came to prepare the way, our hearts are unprepared, and we fail to make way for Jesus in our lives.

We pray for help that we may follow in God's way.



In the third week of Advent, we say:

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy

The service continues with the Absolution, on page 15

In the fourth week of Advent we remember when the angel came to the Blessed Virgin Mary and told her she would be the mother of Jesus.

Mary was courageously obedient to God's call but in this confession we remember that we are often disobedient.

We pray for help that we might follow God better.



In the fourth week of Advent, we say:

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The service continues with the Absolution, on the next page.

The Absolution is the part of the service when the priest announces God's forgiveness.

Even though we have done wrong and have not lived in the way of Jesus, when we turn again to God and say sorry, God forgives us.

God is tender-hearted and full of compassion and welcomes all those who repent with open arms.

Sometimes we can worry that we are truly forgiven by God, and so the Absolution offers us a visible sign of God's forgiveness.



Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and 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.

All Amen

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'

The Collect is said, and all respond.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Reading

At the end of the reading, the following is said.

For the word of the Lord.

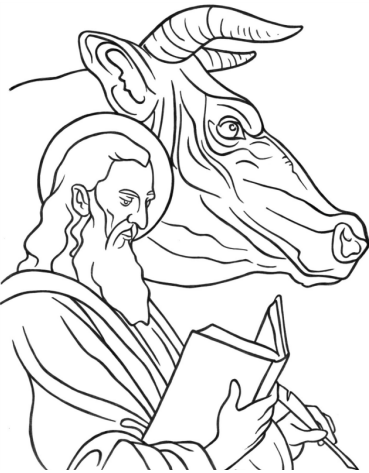
All Thanks be to God.



The Gospels are the parts of the Bible which tell us about the life of Jesus. We stand during the Gospel reading as a sign of how important they are.

There are four Gospels, each told from a different perspective. The Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Traditionally, each Gospel author is associated with a particular animal. You can see these symbols around the church.



Gradual Hymn

Please stand

Gospel Reading

The Deacon says

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint

We sing together

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord

We sing together

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

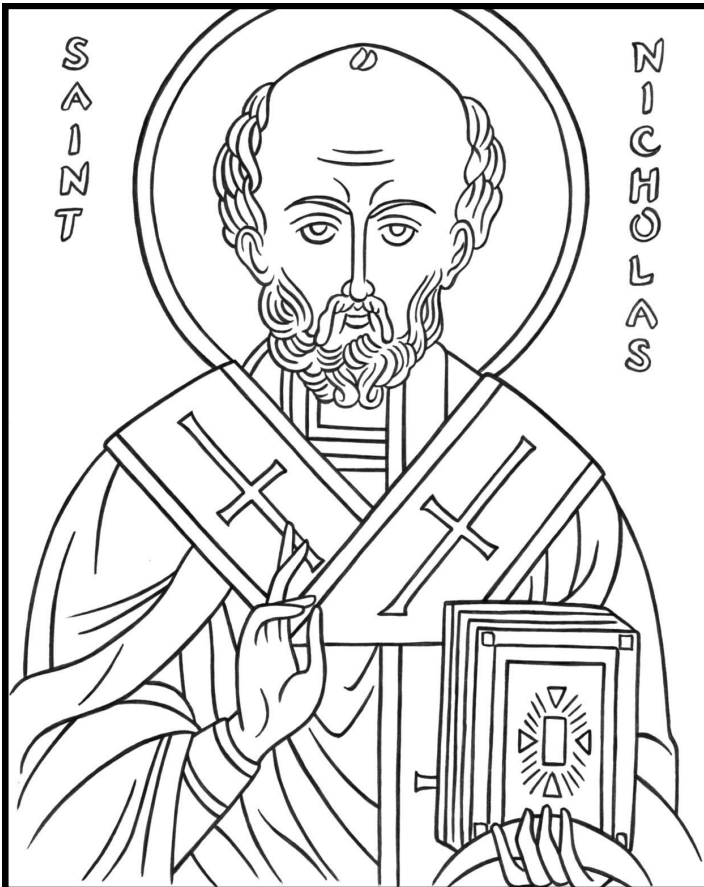
Please sit.

After the sermon, a short time for reflection may be kept.

The creeds are a treasure of belief which have been passed down to us from the early church.

These creeds tell us important things about our God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One God in three persons.

The creed on the right is the Nicene Creed. It was written in the fourth century by a large gathering of Bishops in Turkey. One of the Bishops gathered there may have been St Nicholas.



The Creed

Please stand

**All 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 of 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.

Intercession – praying for others – is an important responsibility for all Christians

We pray for the world and its people
for those who suffer and those in need
for the Church and its members

You don't need special words to pray at home. You can just talk to God like you would any other friend.



Prayers of Intercession

Please sit

This or another response may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

The Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Bread is the sign of our everyday life – what we need to live.

Wine is a sign of life's joys, of all that God has given us to enrich our lives.



The word Eucharist means thanksgiving.

In the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, we give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice for us upon the cross, and we celebrate his presence with us now.

Offertory Hymn



During which a collection is taken for the mission of God in Rugby. Donations may be given in the collection plate, via this QR code, or at the following link: givi.ng/1160223

The Preparation of the Table

Please remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

The following is said or sung

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16th December:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

In Jesus, the Word of God took on human flesh and lived among us.

The birth of Jesus to the Blessed Virgin Mary was long foretold by the prophets and at the heart of God's loving plan of salvation for the world.



For when he humbled himself to come among us in human
flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the
world to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying/singing:

From the 17th December until Christmas Eve:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in
prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

In the Eucharist, we remember and participate in the last meal that Jesus had with his friends.

In obedience to Christ's command, we break bread and share wine which become for us the body and blood of Jesus.



When there is no choir, the below is said. When there is a choir, please see the service insert for the day.

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

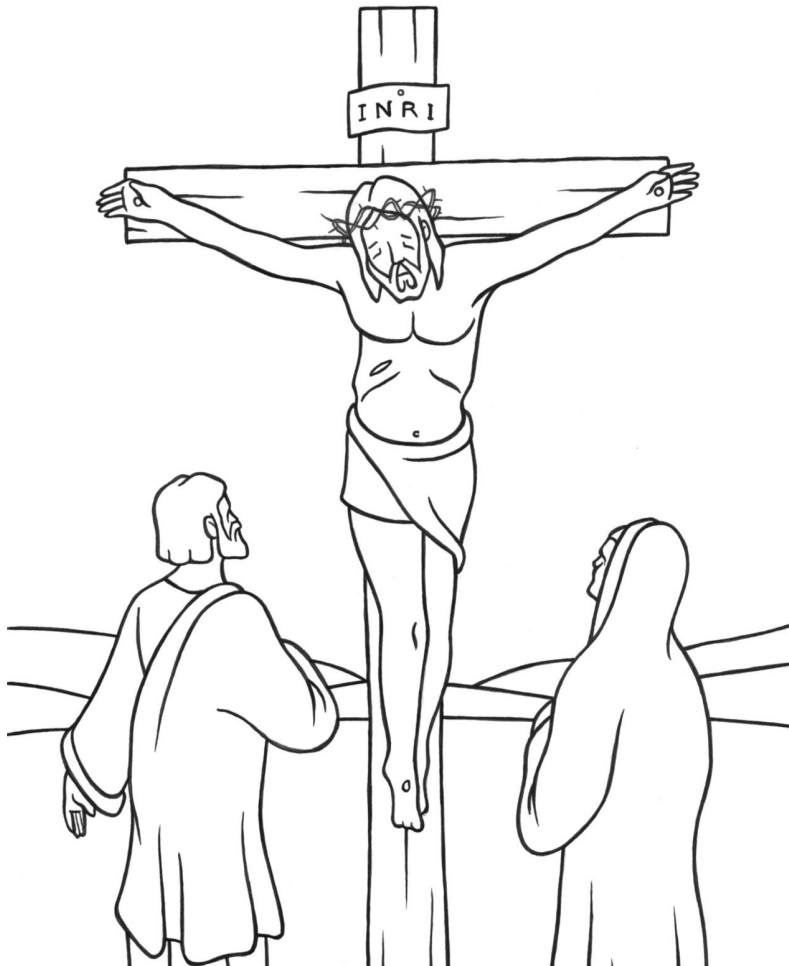
The sanctuary bell is rung.

Jesus suffered and died on the cross in solidarity with a suffering world.

When we see horrible things happening in the world, and when we go through hard times, we can know that Jesus understands our pain.

In dying for us, Jesus destroyed the power of death and by rising from the dead he gives us all hope of life forever in him.

We look forward to that day when Jesus will return to put the world right and bring in his rule of peace.



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 the 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.

The sanctuary bell is rung. The Deacon says:

Great is the mystery of faith:

All 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.

In Holy Communion, we join our prayers with all of the saints.

The saints, God's holy ones, are Christians from across the whole world and throughout all of history.



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 all the saints,
may praise and glorify you forever,
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.
forever and ever.

All Amen.

The sanctuary bell is rung. Please sit or kneel.

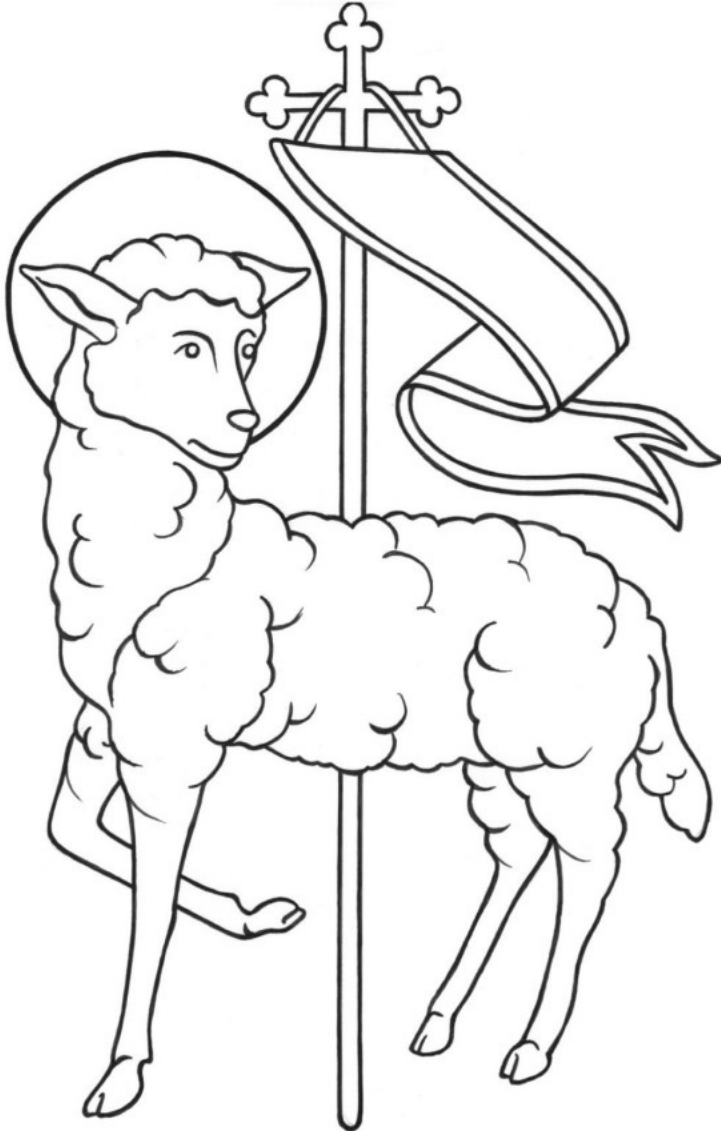
The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

At Passover the Jewish people celebrate how the people of God were saved from slavery in Egypt through the marking of their doorframes with the blood of a lamb.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus has become for us the Lamb of God. By the blood of Jesus, we are rescued from the slavery of sin and death.



Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

**All 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**

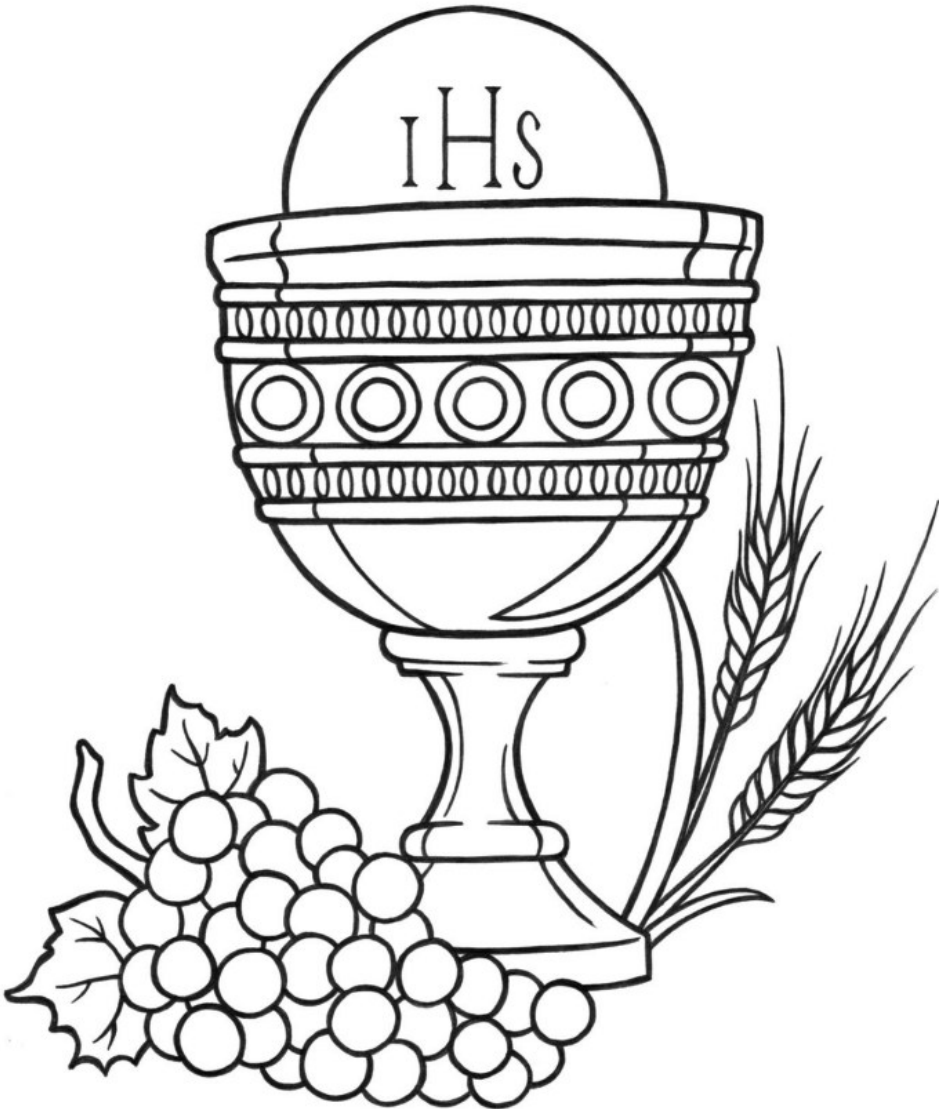
Giving of Communion

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.

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong but because you are weak.

Come not because any goodness of your own gives you the
right to come, but because you need mercy and help.

Come because you love the Lord a little and would like to love
him more.



**All 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.**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who are baptized may receive communion as directed by the stewards. Those who are not baptized are encouraged to come forward to receive God's blessing. If you need a gluten free host, please let the minister know.

If you would like to be baptized, we would love to hear from you. Please talk to one of the ministers at the end of the service.

When you leave church today
you enter a place of worship.



Where might the Spirit be leading you to bring encouragement,
hope and love this week?

Anthem

Communion Hymn

Please remain seated

Prayer after Communion

The Dismissal

Recessional Hymn

Please stand. During the final hymn, the choir and ministers process to the west end of church.

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,
rest upon you now and always.

All Amen.

The Deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Prayer Apps and Resources

Everyday Faith:

Everyday Faith is the new daily devotional app from the Church of England. Following a weekly theme, the app has daily reflections including Bible readings and simple prayers to help prepare you for the day ahead.

Where do I find it?

www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith or on your phone app store

Lectio 365:

Lectio 365 is a free devotional prayer app which helps you pray with the Bible every day. It has short devotionals for the morning and the evening. Why not make space for God at the beginning and end of your days with Lectio 365?

Where do I find it?

www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365 or on your phone app store.

Pray As You Go:

Pray as you go is a free website and phone app inspired by Ignatian spirituality. There are many different ways to pray every day. My highlights are the Examen, which helps you reflect on your week, as well as The Gift of Sleep, which helps you unwind after a stressful day.

Where do I find it?

pray-as-you-go.org or on your phone app store.

St Andrew's Staff Team

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in Rugby, seven days a week.**

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Please consider leaving a donation at the above QR code
or at the giving point at the rear of church.