

## The Post-Communion Prayer

God our deliverer,  
Awaken our hearts  
to prepare the way for the advent of your Son,  
that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming,  
we may serve you faithfully all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ Notices ~

### Concerts currently scheduled for this Autumn:

27<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – Regina Nathan  
CONCERT CANCELLED DUE TO ILL HEALTH

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> December - Pat Ryan and Eoin O'Neill – A Gala of traditional Irish Music - ticket details to be confirmed.

11<sup>th</sup> December 8.00pm – Helen Hancock – (soprano with Frances Kelleher – pianist and Cilleán Fox – violin) – tickets €15 available from [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> December – 1.00pm – Clare Music Makers – students concert – no entry fee

**Prayers** - If you have any particular issue that you would like to be prayed for, do please email me on [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) or call me on 065 672 4721.

**Christmas** – I am asking either for volunteers to play or for recommendations of friends/family who might play as part of a team of musicians for a 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' event. This might be live or recorded for broadcast online.

**Talks at Killaloe Cathedral** – A series of talks for Advent Wednesday at 8.00pm – Cathedral Church of St Flannan

**Week 2** 1st December – A Liturgical church  
Rev Kevin O'Brien

**Week 3** 8th December – an Episcopal church  
Ven Terry Mitchell

**Week 4** 15th December – An ecumenical church  
Joc Sanders

**Website:** [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans](http://www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](http://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

**Rector:** Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) Tel: 065 672 4721

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Mission Sunday donations to:

Limerick & Killaloe Diocesan Council for Mission  
IBAN: IE44OFI9045591214337 BIC: BOFIE2D

## Advent Candle Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,

God of our ancestors,

to you be praise and glory for ever!

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promise fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call

and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ

a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for you are our light and our salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**



# Advent Sunday

(Year B) 2021

## Readings and Hymns

**Collect:** Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us away from darkness to the light of holiness,

that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns:** *In conjunction with the online service you might like to view these hymns on YouTube - with internet links and lyrics so that you can sing along:*

- 1) Lo! he comes with clouds descending  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cHmPHCljY8>
- 2) Thy Kingdom come, O God  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe-Vy5LkYE8>
- 3) Come, thou long expected Jesus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEE0uWnDGs>
- 4) Forth in thy name I go.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUVAbXgJyqQ>

### Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust; ♦  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦  
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.  
Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.  
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions, ♦  
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.  
Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.  
He will guide the humble in doing right ♦  
and teach his way to the lowly.  
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth ♦  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.  
For your name's sake, O Lord, ♦  
be merciful to my sin, for it is great.

### 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so

strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

#### **Commentary**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

Jeremiah ministered around the time when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 586 BC. In bad times, he told of God's love for his people. The restoration of the city is mentioned in vv. 6-9: "... this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory ..." Our passage was edited or written centuries later. Now we hear that it is a certainty that a time will come when God will complete his obligations ("fulfill the promise I made", v. 14) under his covenant with the Israelites. Vv. 15-16 are Jeremiah's prophecy in 23:5-6 with a difference: there it is Judah and Israel; here it is "Judah" (v. 16) and "Jerusalem". The "righteous Branch" (v. 15) is a king (or messiah) of David's line; both kings and the messiah were expected to be just and righteous (godly). Judah will be restored to prosperity ("saved", v. 16); Jerusalem will be protected. Per the NRSV, it is the city or the "Branch" that will be called "The Lord is our righteousness", but this may be the name of a king: thus the Revised English Bible. Vv. 17-18 foretell the permanence of the Davidic monarchy, and of priests offering sacrifice. God's covenant with his people is forever, or at least until the end of the age, i.e. to the start of the messianic era. God will never break the pact (even if the people deviate from it).

#### **Psalms 25:1-10**

The psalmist seeks deliverance from personal enemies. He trusts in God (vv. 1-4); may God never allow the ungodly (the "treacherous", v. 3) to claim victory over him. Key to maintaining the upper hand is knowing God's ways, being taught by God (v. 4), accepting God's leadership (v. 5), coming to know ultimate "truth" (v. 5): this is the way to being saved from the scheming of his (and God's) adversaries. The psalmist nudges God into remembering his "mercy" (v. 6, compassion) and "love", qualities of God since time immemorial. In youthful flings, we deviate from God's ways, but please, Lord, remember my times of fidelity (v. 7). God does teach his ways to those who have strayed and who approach him in awe ("humble", v. 9). "Love and faithfulness" (v. 10) are characteristic of God's covenant relationship with his people.

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Paul predicted, when he was in Thessalonika, that some Christians there would be persecuted. This has now happened; he has sent Timothy to "strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so no one would be shaken by these persecutions" (vv. 2-3). Timothy has now returned to Paul in Athens, and has conveyed to him "the good news of your faith and love" (v. 6). Indeed, their faith has encouraged Paul in facing persecution himself.

Now he considers their prayer for him to be a debt to be repaid ("in return", v. 9). Even though he lives continually in gratitude to, and dependence on, God ("before our God"; "Night and day", v. 10), "all the joy" (v. 9) their faith brings to him is hard to repay, but he does give thanks. He also prays that he may visit them ("see you face to face", v. 10) to "restore" (or make good) lacks in their knowledge of the faith, to give them further instruction in specific areas (likely what will happen when Jesus comes again: see v. 13). In vv. 11-13, he prays, intercedes with God, on their behalf:

that he may visit them again ("direct ...", v. 11); that they may have a superabundance of love for their fellow Christians and for others ("all", v. 12), as Paul, Timothy and Silvanus ("we") have for them; and that their very beings ("hearts", v. 13) may become so God-like ("holiness") that they may be totally free of sin ("blameless") when Christ comes again with all those who belong to God ("his saints") at the end of time.

At that time, says 4:13-17, Christ will bring the faithful dead with him; they will rise to be with God first; then those who are still alive will join them in heaven forever.

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple (v. 6). Some have asked him when this will occur and what will indicate that it is about to happen (v. 7). Given that "all the people were spellbound by what they heard" (19:48) and that the religious authorities "kept looking for a way to kill him" (19:47), the destruction must have spiritual meaning. Jesus tells of events commonly expected at the end of the era, and adds some which are specifically Christian. First, Christians will be persecuted by religious and civil authorities (v. 12). Then there will be "wars and insurrections" (v. 9), but "the end will not follow immediately" (as people expected). Disastrous natural phenomena, cause for great distress, will occur (v. 11), and when Jerusalem is surrounded by armies (v. 20), the city will soon fall: either physically or spiritually. Again the end will be delayed: the killing and deportation of citizens will continue "until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (v. 24), i.e. until non-Jews have had the opportunity to come to Christ.

Now Jesus foretells unnatural events ("signs ...", v. 25) and the resulting confusion among nations and people, not knowing what will happen next. But the "Son of Man" (v. 27), the ideal human, Christ, will come from heaven ("in a cloud", a symbol of divine presence, as at the Transfiguration) with power to control events. Then "redemption" (v. 28), God's acts of freeing his chosen people, will be near. Just as the leafing of trees shows that "summer is ... near" (v. 30), so the occurrence of all these events will show that "the kingdom of God is near" (v. 31): this time will be evident to the faithful. The signs will be as striking as is seen in fig trees: in winter, they look dead but in spring they sprout. In spite of the delay, the era will end before all those alive now have died (v. 32). Jesus' "words" (v. 33) are even more eternal than creation ("heaven and earth"). Finally, he advises vigilance: do not be so "weighed down" (v. 34) with day-to-day earthy matters that you are unprepared for the final call ("that day"). It will be for all those who survive all disasters (v. 35). Pray that God may give you the strength to resist all evils, so that you may "stand before" (v. 36) Christ, be deemed worthy by him.