

# CHRIST CHURCH, BRAY

Morning Prayer



Advent Sunday

11am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Musical introduction

## *The Gathering of God's People*

Advent God, we are waiting for you.  
Advent God, come, that we may know your presence.  
Advent God, we look to your coming,  
Trusting in the power of Immanuel,  
God with us.

**Amen.**

Advent is a season of preparation. We are preparing not just for the celebration of Christmas, when we remember the birth of Jesus, but also looking ahead to Christ's coming again in glory. It is a season in which we set aside time to slow down and to reflect. We travel through these weeks, from darkness to light. As we gather, we make space to listen to God's word and to offer our praise. In prayerful hope, we bring before God our concerns, our failures, and the many situations of pain and injustice that exist in our world.

We prepare our hearts to listen to God's voice:

**God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.**

## **Hymn 634 Love divine, all loves excelling**

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

#### **Advent 1**

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray;  
longing for the day of glory,

'Come, Lord, soon', we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and gladness  
changed for gladness on that day.

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming Kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
The good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
The light who is coming into the world.

O Lord, open our lips,  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### ***Penitence***

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.  
*cf John 1.23*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord of mercy, grant us your pardon and peace;  
that cleansed from our sins and with peace in our hearts,  
we may be free to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Proclaiming and Receiving the Word***

#### **The Readings**

##### **Isaiah 2: 1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

##### **Psalm 122**

1 I was glad when they said to me, ♦  
'**Let us go to the house of the Lord.**'  
2 And now our feet are standing ♦

**within your gates, O Jerusalem;**

3 Jerusalem, built as a city ♦

**that is at unity in itself.**

4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ♦

**as is decreed for Israel,**

**to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, ♦

**the thrones of the house of David.**

6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ♦

**'May they prosper who love you.**

7 'Peace be within your walls ♦

**and tranquillity within your palaces.'**

8 For my kindred and companions' sake, ♦

**I will pray that peace be with you.**

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ♦

**I will seek to do you good.**

#### **Matthew 24: 36-44**

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **A Collect of the Word**

Faithful God,

whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:

renew us in hope,

that we may be awake and alert

watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,

our Judge and Saviour,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## Sermon

# Hymn 263 Crown him with many crowns

### *The Response to God's Word*

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### *The Prayers of the People*

Response:

Loving God,

**Let your kingdom come.**

**Merciful Father,**

**accept these our prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### *Advent Collect*

**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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen**

***The Lord's Prayer***

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we pray:

**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.**

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| <b><i>Going Out as God's People</i></b> |
|---|

God is working.

Let us be ready for God's Love

Christ is coming.

Let us be ready for His Peace.

The Spirit is with us.

Let us be ready for Her transformation.

And may the Blessing of God the worker,

Christ the redeemer,

and the Spirit the sanctifier,

rest upon us, and all those we love,

today, through this Advent,

and every day beyond

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,**

**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Hymn 132 *Lo, he comes with clouds descending***

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### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

7pm Purple House Christmas Candlelight Service

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

11am Service of the Word

7pm Classics by Candlelight

Services are in-Church and also available to view live stream or watch a recording later at [www.churchservices.tv/christchurchbray](http://www.churchservices.tv/christchurchbray) or via our website [www.christchurchbray.ie](http://www.christchurchbray.ie)

### **Announcements**

#### **Recycled Teenagers**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am, PLC

#### **Classics by Candlelight**

Classics by Candlelight returns for its thirteenth year on Sunday 4th December at 7pm. An hour of wonderful music for string quartet will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies, which are included in the price of the ticket. (Alcohol-free hot punch means that drivers need not miss out!). The musicians all play with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. Tickets, €10, are available to purchase after Church on Sundays, or from Fleurtique or The Travel Boutique in Bray, or from the parish office.

### **Christmas Trees**

Don't forget to order your Christmas Tree for collection on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, see more details overleaf

### **Christmas Table**

The 'Christmas Table' will be back this year on the evening of 'Classics by Candlelight', 4<sup>th</sup> December, and after Church Service each Sunday up to Christmas. Plenty of decorations, cards, gifts and baubles will be on sale at very reasonable prices. No donations of further items please.

### **Christ Church Christmas Cards**

Our own Christ Church Christmas Cards, 3 designs, are now available at the back of the Church €5.00 per pack of 6.

### **Lesson Reading**

Would you like to put your name on our list of lesson readers? Please let the Churchwardens know. On occasion it may be necessary to reschedule a particular reader.

### **Card Payments**

We now have a machine to take credit/debit card payments in Church. If you don't have cash, or you'd like to make a donation, or pay for a ticket, you can 'tap' your credit card.

### **Contacts**

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday, 9am-1pm. Please contact Tracey in the first instance for routine matters –01 286 2968 or email [christchurchbray@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbray@gmail.com)

As Baden is on indefinite sick leave, please contact David Reynolds at 087 918 7792 in emergencies.



ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE NOW..... all proceeds as usual to charities which more than ever need our support now, mainly due to increase living costs right across the board... If you do not wish to buy a tree could you please make a donation as this will be very helpful to the charities  
Orders taken NOW

- (1) From Parish Office (01) 2862968 or email [christchurchbray@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbray@gmail.com)
- (2) Order by email to [wilkinsecure@hotmail.com](mailto:wilkinsecure@hotmail.com)
- (3) Order by phone George (087) 2543113 or office (01) 2868377

Collection from Christchurch Bray on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10am-12noon

All trees are NON-SHREDDERS, very keen prices!!!!, on behalf of all the charities we thank you for your support.

4ft, 6ft, 8ft, 10ft, 14ft

Prices:

|      |   |        |
|------|---|--------|
| 4ft  | - | €38.00 |
| 6ft  | - | €45.00 |
| 8ft  | - | €48.00 |
| 10ft | - | €59.00 |
| 14ft | - | €70.00 |

Thankyou for helping!!!!

*Just to cheer everyone up for the festive season everyone who purchases a tree this year, their name will be entered into a draw for a bumper Christmas Hamper and the draw will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022.*

### ***Christmas Services***

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December   | 11am Holy Baptism<br>7pm Carol Service                     |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December | 7.30pm Christmas Eve Service                               |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December   | 10.30am Christmas Day Service (followed by Holy Communion) |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January     | 11am Morning Prayer  |

*In line with many parishes, we are bringing the Christmas Eve service forward to 7:30pm. We hope that this will attract families with children and older people – people who don't come out at midnight, if at all. Please spread the word! Feedback post-Christmas will be most welcome.*