

Service for the dispersed communities of St John's and All Saints' on the second Sunday before Advent

Welcome and introduction

A moment of silence before we commence our service:

We meet in the name of God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let everything be said and done in the name of the
Lord Jesus,
**giving thanks to God through
Jesus Christ.**

Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:
**let us sing to God with
thankful hearts.**

Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

Opening prayer

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

*Let all the world in every corner
sing*
George Herbert

Invitation to confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

The Confession

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end

Hymn

What a faithful God

Robert Critchley

New Testament reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection (YouTube)

The Creed

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to
come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**for by his will they were
created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride
say, 'Come!'**

**Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Hymn

Find me in the river

Martin Smith

Intercessions

Concluding with the The Lord's
Prayer

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

When peace like a river

Horatio Spafford

Closing prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and
power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of his
kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news
we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and dismissal

May God the Father, Judge all-
merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his
kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among
us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of
his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us
steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in
love.

Amen.

And the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

**All In the name of Christ,
Amen**

