2026 - 'Following Jesus on Mission'

The First Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion
29th November 2026

St Lawrence with St Paul Longridge

Please join us for our service live on YouTube at 10:00am.
Visit: www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaullongridge/streams

The Welcome & introduction

Opening Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice;
River and mountain-spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing:
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, awake,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
To you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost west,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the North we come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the universe be blest.

based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)

THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit as we remember the witness of the Old Testament Patriarchs.

The following prayer on page 19 of the purple service book is said:

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 promisedfulfilment.
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

.

Please follow the order of service from the Purple booklet.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and 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.**

The children who would like to take part in the Children's Church head into the Centenary Room, with the Children's Church leaders and with a prayer.

First Reading

Isaiah 64 : 1—9

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down, that the mountains
would tremble before you!
2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and
causes water to boil, come down to make
your name known to your enemies and
cause the nations to quake before you!
3 For when you did awesome things that
we did not expect, you came down, and
the mountains trembled before you.
4 Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen
any God besides you, who acts on behalf
of those who wait for him.
5 You come to the help of those who
gladly do right, who remember your
ways. But when we continued to sin
against them, you were angry. How then
can we be saved?
6 All of us have become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous acts are
like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
7 No one calls on your name or strives to
lay hold of you; for you have hidden your
face from us and have given us over to
our sins.
8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the
clay, you are the potter; we are all the
work of your hand.
9 Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;
do not remember our sins for ever. Oh,
look upon us we pray, for we are all your
people.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
Born a Child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Gospel Reading

Mark 13: 24—37

Alleluia, Alleluia,
The word of the Lord endures for ever.
The word of the Lord is the good news
announced to you.
Alleluia!
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

Glory to you O Lord.

24 'But in those days, following that
distress, '"the sun will be darkened, and
the moon will not give its light;
25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the
heavenly bodies will be shaken."

[26] ‘At that time people will see the Son of
Man coming in clouds with great power
and glory. [27] And he will send his angels
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of
the heavens.
[28] ‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-
tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and
its leaves come out, you know that
summer is near. [29] Even so, when you see
these things happening, you know that it
is near, right at the door. [30] Truly I tell you,
this generation will certainly not pass
away until all these things have happened.
[31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but
my words will never pass away.
[32] ‘But about that day or hour no one
knows, not even the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Be on
guard! Be alert! You do not know when
that time will come. [34] It’s like a man
going away: he leaves his house and puts
his servants in charge, each with their
assigned task, and tells the one at the
door to keep watch.
[35] ‘Therefore keep watch because you do
not know when the owner of the house
will come back – whether in the evening,
or at midnight, or when the cock crows,
or at dawn. [36] If he comes suddenly, do
not let him find you sleeping. [37] What I
say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”’

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn during preparation of the Table

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture—
In the Body and the Blood—
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia! Lord most high.

Liturgy of St. James Tr.
G. Moultrie (1829 - 85)

We do not pass a collection plate during the Offertory, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work, ministry and maintenance of the Parish, there is provision at the back of church for donations in cash, weekly envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone using the reader at the back of the church. Thank you.

The Choir will sing during the distribution of Communion

Final Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice, etc...

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, etc..

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice, etc..

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, etc...

Tr. J. M. Neale (1818 - 66) and Others

Organ Voluntary;-

Paean on Divinum Mysterium by
John Cook (1918-1984) Anglo-American

Those Departed - Rest In Peace
Norma Cross, Florence Porter
Dorothy Gallagher, Patricia Davis
Maureen Charnley, David Illingworth
Canon Harry Doyle

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop
Thursday 3rd December. 7pm – 9pm
Longridge Cricket Club
£40 includes all materials
See Dot Little to book your place

Valley Singers Christmas Concert
Sunday 6th December – 2pm
St. Lawrence Church – free entry
(Donations for St. Paul's Organ Maintenance Fund)

Crafty Cafe
The next meeting is tomorrow
Monday 30th November
1:30 - 3:30pm
in St. Paul's Church Centenary room



invitation to join the tea rota
It's lovely to share fellowship over a cuppa at the end of Sunday morning services, but we're short on helpers.
Please join our happy band, it involves setting up at about 9:30am, and serving after the service.
If interested please let Naomi know, email Naomi.pinder63@gmail.com
Thank you

Next Sunday's Services — December 6th 2026 - Advent 2
10:00am 'Service of Holy Communion' including Children's Church
at St Paul's Church / Live stream
4:00-5:00pm 'The 4' at St. Paul's Church
6.30pm Service of Evensong' at St. Lawrence's Church