

St Andrew's, Chesterton

Family Service

1 December 2024

St Andrew's Day / Advent Sunday

Thank you to all who give to the life of our church in so many ways. A collection will **not** be taken during this service. There is a still a Collection Plate available at the back, and it is also possible to make electronic donations via the machine at the back or via this QR code if you so choose.



Please be aware this service is livestreamed. If you or anyone accompanying you does not wish to be visible on camera, remain behind the front row. Those coming up to the front during the talk will not be filmed.

We are welcomed

God is good
all the time.
All the time
God is good.

We Sing

- 1 People, look east to see at last
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
prophets' dreams from days of old.
- 2 God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.
- 3 Now, with the coming of the light,
darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.
- 4 Born of our race, a child so small —
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again:
see, he comes in power to reign!

Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 47
MARTIN LECKEBUSCH (b. 1962) Words: © 2000, Kevin Mayhew Limited.
Reproduced by permission of Kevin Mayhew Limited (www.kevinmayhew.com)
Licence no. KM600006/1. Tune: Besancon Carol.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

We say sorry

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

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

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

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray the Collect Prayer together

**Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Bible Reading

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?
¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Talk

We sing

1 Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King!

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We're going to see the King!*

2 No more crying there —
we are going to see the King!
No more crying there —
we are going to see the King!
No more crying there —
we are going to see the King!

3 No more dying there —
we are going to see the King!
No more dying there —
we are going to see the King!
No more dying there —
we are going to see the King!

Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 49
Words and Music: ANDRAE CROUCH (b. 1945)
© 1976, Bud John Songs Inc & Crouch Music / EMICMP / Small Stone Media BV,
Netherlands. Administered by Song Solutions Daybreak, 14 Horsted Square, Uckfield,
East Sussex, TN22 1QG. Used by permission.

We say what we believe

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

We pray together

Our prayers end with

**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.**

We share news

We sing

1 Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

*Make way! Make way for the King of kings!
Make way! Make way and let his kingdom in!*

2 He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.

3 And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

4 We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no other gods but him:
their thrones must fall!

Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 160
GRAHAM KENDRICK (b. 1950); Words and Music: © 1986, Administered by
Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook; Used by permission.

We share the Peace

We are invited to form a circle around the church and sing
Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We very much hope you have enjoyed joining us for worship at St
Andrew's Chesterton this morning. If you are new or visiting, please do
introduce yourself and stay for refreshments in the church.*

*There will be a short celebration of Communion after refreshments,
beginning c. 11.15am. All welcome to stay.*

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989
National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA © The
Archbishops' Council 2000-04. Copyright hymns are reproduced
under CCLI Licence no. 30093, and One Licence 632880-A.