

# Virtual Service for the Linton Team of Churches Sundays before Advent and Advent

*Please join us in worshipping 'together' wherever you are on Sundays at 10 am. However, if you can't use this material then, you can of course use it at any other time. We suggest that you prepare a suitable space for worship and have available a candle to light at the beginning and some suitable music to play at the end during the 'Offering of ourselves to God'*

*If you are joining in this service as a group please designate one person as the leader reading the normal print with everyone joining in the text in bold type.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. **Amen**

## **Candle Lighting**

*A candle may be lit as a focus for worship during the service using the following words*

May Christ, the true and the only light banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

## **A Hymn/Psalm may be sung or said**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

Let us pray:

**Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Confession**

*A time of silence as we call to mind our sins and weaknesses, before we confess them to God.*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*cf Matthew 4.17*

**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like the morning Cloud,  
like dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from Judgement  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our lord.  
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins  
and bring us to everlasting life  
**Amen**

## **Collect Readings Reflection**

### **Prayers of intercession**

*Please pray in the way that comes most naturally to you, either in silence or out loud we end with the Lord's Prayer*

#### **Traditional**

**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.**

#### **Modern**

**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.**

# Thanksgiving

Living God, Father of light,  
Hope of nations, Friend of sinners,  
Builder of the city that is to come;  
your love is made visible in Jesus Christ,  
you bring home the lost, restore the sinner  
and give dignity to the despised.

We give you thanks

**We praise your holy name**

In the face of Jesus Christ  
your light shines out,  
flooding lives with goodness and truth,  
gathering into one a divided and broken humanity.

We give you thanks

**We praise your holy name**

With people from every race and nation,  
with the Church of all the ages,  
with apostles, evangelists and martyrs  
we join the angels of heaven  
in their unending song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**A Hymn/Psalm may be sung or said**

## **Offering ourselves to God**

*One or more of the following may be used*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits  
you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have  
borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you  
sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my  
heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and  
follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

*After the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

*From St Patrick's Breastplate*

**Soul of Christ, sanctify me, body of Christ, save me,  
blood of Christ, inebriate me, water from the side of  
Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O  
good Jesus, hear me: hide me within your wounds and  
never let me be separated from you. From the wicked  
enemy defend me, in the hour of my death, call me and  
bid me come to you, so that with your saints I may  
praise you for ever and ever. Amen**

*Anima Christi (14th century)*

**Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a  
serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking  
with you, every day of our lives; that when you come,  
we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the  
flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but  
waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God for  
ever.**

*Richard Baxter (1691)*

## **Music**

*A suitable piece of music may be played to enable reflection on the offering we are making*

## **Blessing**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing;  
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

*Common Worship Texts © Archbishops Council 2000, 2002, 2006*