

**19 DECEMBER 2021**  
**HOME SERVICE GUIDE**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*A very warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for our worship service this morning.*



***Welcome & Greeting***

***The Angelus prayer from Archbishop Thabo***

**God bless the world,  
Give it wisdom at this time,  
Grant us relief and release,  
Be with those who are ill,  
And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,  
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, which is also purple and represents love. It is called the “**Bethlehem Candle**” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem – becoming the **symbol of love**. It was in Bethlehem, where the love of God was played out in a child resting in a manger (**Bethlehem /Love Candle**)

**Lighting the Advent Candle:**

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Praise the Lord  
**Praise him you servants of the Lord**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
**Blessed be his name, now and for ever**

### ***Collect for Purity (APB p105)***

**Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord**

### **Penitence (APB p106)**

Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Let us confess our sins (firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all creation).

(Silence may be kept)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life to the glory of your Name.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Collect**

**God of Elizabeth and Mary: make our hearts leap with joy, fill our mouths with songs of praise and make us ready to welcome the Christ in our midst; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.**

**Our Parish Prayer**

**Lord our God, thank you for calling St Augustine's to be your church in our city. Help us to welcome you in all people, to praise you in prayer and worship, to love you, through serving this parish and the community, to travel and grow in faith together, to be a community of love and service in our world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

**Psalm:** Luke 1:46-55 (replaces the psalm)

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10: 5-10

**Hymn/Song: MP 210 Hark the glad sound the saviour comes**

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the chains of sin before Him break,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes to free the captive mind  
Where evil thoughts control,  
and for the darkness of the blind  
gives light that makes them whole.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
And wounded soul to cure,

and with the treasures of His grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
Your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with Your beloved Name.

**Gospel:** Luke 1: 39-45

**Sermon**

*The Nicene Creed (APB p108)*

**We believe in one God  
the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth  
Of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ  
the only Son of God  
eternally begotten of the Father  
God from God, Light from Light  
true God from true God  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of the Church - Form D (APB p 115)*

### **The Peace (APB p 115)**

“...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”  
(Hebrews 10:10)

May the peace and grace of the Lord be always with you.

**Peace be with you.**

### ***The Presentation of Gifts (Your Home-Made Collection Boxes.)***

Our Father and Eternal God, bless us as we bring these tithes and offerings to you and use them for your plans and redemptive purposes in the world. We pray this in Jesus name, to him, with you and the Holy Spirit, one blessed God. **Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer (APB 126)      Said**

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### ***Prayer of preparation:***

**Almighty and everlasting God  
we approach the sacrament of your only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ;  
as sick, we come to the physician of life;  
as unclean, to the fountain of mercy;  
as blind, to the light of eternal splendour;  
as needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth;  
as naked, to the King of glory. Amen**

### ***Spiritual Communion prayer (APB p 516)***

*One who is unable to receive the Sacrament physically may make a spiritual communion,  
and be certain that Christ comes to them in this way as surely as he does in the Sacrament.*

***Soul of Christ, sanctify me.***

***Body of Christ, save me.***

***Blood of Christ, refresh me.***

***Water from the side of Christ, wash me.***

***Passion of Christ, strengthen me.***

***O good Jesus, hear me;***

***Within your wounds hide me.***

***Let me never be separated from you.  
From the malicious enemy, defend me.  
In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come to you  
that with your saints I may praise you forever and ever. Amen.***

***Conclusion (APB p 129)***

**Give thanks to God for God is gracious  
God's mercy endures for ever.**

**Lord,  
we have broken your bread  
and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Father almighty  
we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out into the world  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.**

**Prayer for Africa**

**God, bless Africa  
protect our children  
transform our leaders  
heal our communities  
restore our dignity  
and give us peace;  
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

**Blessing**

**"May this be for you a day of blessings given, blessings received, and sanctuary along the way"; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and all whom you love and pray for today and always. Amen  
(Jan Richardson)**

**Dismissal (APB 129)**

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**