

*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**

Closing Hymn (Offertory) **Always** (Chris Tomlin)

*Blessing of the City*

May you be interrupted, frustrated, delayed and disrupted.  
And in that moment may the Kingdom of heaven  
be revealed in you.

May your eyes be Christ's eyes,  
Your hands Christ's hands.  
And your words Christ's words

For this is where you have been placed,  
here in this beautiful brokenness,  
this urban wilderness.

May you die to yourself and serve the people of this town.  
To the Glory of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Amen.

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St Michael's Church, Highworth  
10.15am service — Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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*Welcome and Opening Prayer*

We gather in the name of the God, Creator, Redeemer, and  
Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

**Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life,  
Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the  
angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or  
unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.**

Song **So will I (Hillsong)**

*Lighting the first Advent Candle*

First Reading Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Song **Soon and very soon**

*Confession*

God of Advent,

it hurts us to remember the mistakes we have made.  
We are sorry for the bad decisions that have ended  
our hopes and those of others:

**forgive us and help us to choose well.**

We are sorry when our misreading of situations  
has spoilt our hopes and those of others:

**forgive us and help us to act wisely.**

We are sorry when resentment and jealousy  
have poisoned our hopes and those of others:

**forgive us and help us to think carefully.**

*Assurance of forgiveness*

Lord Jesus, child of Christmas and Saviour of all the world,  
trusting your promise of forgiveness,  
we lift our heads and take the next steps;  
we let go of old mistakes and embrace new opportunities;  
we come out of our darkness into your Advent light,  
and begin again, hopefully and confidently.  
In your name.

**Amen!**

*Collect Advent I*

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

*Bible reading Luke 21:25-36 - YouTube*

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Song **Restore O Lord**

*Sermon - 'Let's brace ourselves'*

*Profession of Faith*

I believe in God the Creator,  
who divided earth and sea, light and darkness,  
who created all that lives and breathes and moves.  
I believe that I am part of, and have responsibility towards  
God's continuing creation.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God,  
born in human form, living, dying,  
showing God's unconditional love, available for all.  
I believe that I should try to follow Christ's commandments  
to love God with all my being, and my neighbour as myself.

I believe in the Spirit  
who manifests God's wisdom and power,  
yesterday, today and tomorrow.  
I believe that I need the Spirit, to enable and inspire me in life  
and to be with me in death.

I believe in the Trinity of God,  
the one in three wholeness,  
the three in one diversity.  
I believe that the mystery of the Trinity will be revealed  
when we are transformed to eternity.

*What has God been doing?*

*Prayers*