



## **The Third Sunday of Advent**

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Sunday 14 December 2025, 11.00am

President:

**The Revd Dr John Barker**

Preacher:

**The Revd Nicol Kinrade**

# WELCOME

**to all who are joining us today, whether in church or online.**

All Hallows is a member of Inclusive Church and we are delighted you have joined our worship today. Please ask one of our welcomers if you need any assistance during the service. If you are able, we'd love you to join us for refreshments when the service has finished.

For those with children you will find space in the south aisle where you will be able to see and participate in the whole service. You will find some activity sheets to enable you and any children you have brought with you to engage with our service. Please ask one of our friendly welcomers if you need anything before or during the service.

We will be taking a collection during the service, and we encourage those who are UK tax payers to use one of the gift aid envelopes which are available in the pews. This will increase the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to you.

You can also make a debit/credit card donation to All Hallows by using the donations machine at the back of the church, by using the QR code on your phone, or via our website at [www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate](http://www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate)

**Thank you.**



## Security Notice

We advise you not to leave personal belongings unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. Do not leave bags on the floor by your feet, and make sure you take any valuables with you when you go up to receive Communion. For additional safety and security, 24 hour CCTV recording is in operation on these premises.

*Our church services are recorded and streamed on our website. You may be filmed during the service, and pictures of you may be transmitted online and as mobile content. By entering the church you consent to such filming and to the transmission of any broadcast. If you do not wish to be filmed please speak to one of the welcome team who will direct you to an unfilmed area in the north aisle.*

## Music Before the Service

*Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott BWV 602 – J S Bach*

Organist: David Cook

## The Gathering

*Please stand.*

### Hymn

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest,  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without thy grace our souls must fade,  
And wither like a flower decayed.**

**Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father, we adore,  
and Spirit blest for evermore. Amen.**

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749) Tune: Winchester New*

### Welcome and Introduction

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction are said.*

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

*We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we sing:*

**John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'**

*Mark Earey (b. 1965) Tune: Angel Voices*

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.  
May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him  
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom  
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## Prayers of Confession

*Please sit or kneel.*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.



Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me



Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me.



The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Setting: Merbecke*

## **The Collect**

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10**

*read by David Risley*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
 then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;  
 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
 the unclean shall not travel on it,  
 but it shall be for God's people;  
 no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
 No lion shall be there,  
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
 but the redeemed shall walk there.  
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
 and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

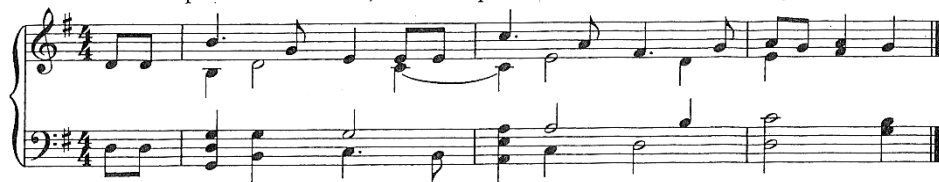
This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated for* **The Psalm: 146.4-10**

*sung by Dorothy Lawrence*

I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.



Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
 Who made heaven and earth,  
 the sea and all that is in them;  
 who keeps his promise for ever; **R/**

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; **R/**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous;

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;  
he upholds the orphan and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Alleluia.

## **Second Reading: James 5.7-10**

*read by Howard Redgwell*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and face the Gospel*

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11**

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Sermon**

The Revd Nicol Kinrade

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand.*

**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 from 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.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*led by Ella Barker*

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Offertory Hymn**

*During the hymn a collection will be taken towards the ministry of this church. If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews. Thank you.*

**The people that in darkness sat  
a glorious light have seen;  
the light has shined on them who long  
in shades of death have been.**

**To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
the gathering nations come;  
they joy as when the reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.**

**For thou their burden dost remove,  
and break the tyrant's rod,  
as in the day when Midian fell  
before the sword of God.**

**For unto us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulder ever rests  
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
the everlasting Lord,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and power  
shall over all extend;  
on judgement and on justice based,  
his reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
and make us thine alone,  
who with the Father ever art  
and Holy Spirit One. Amen.**

*Scottish Paraphrases, 1781, John Morrison (1750-1798) based on Isaiah 9.2-7 Tune: Dundee*

## The Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

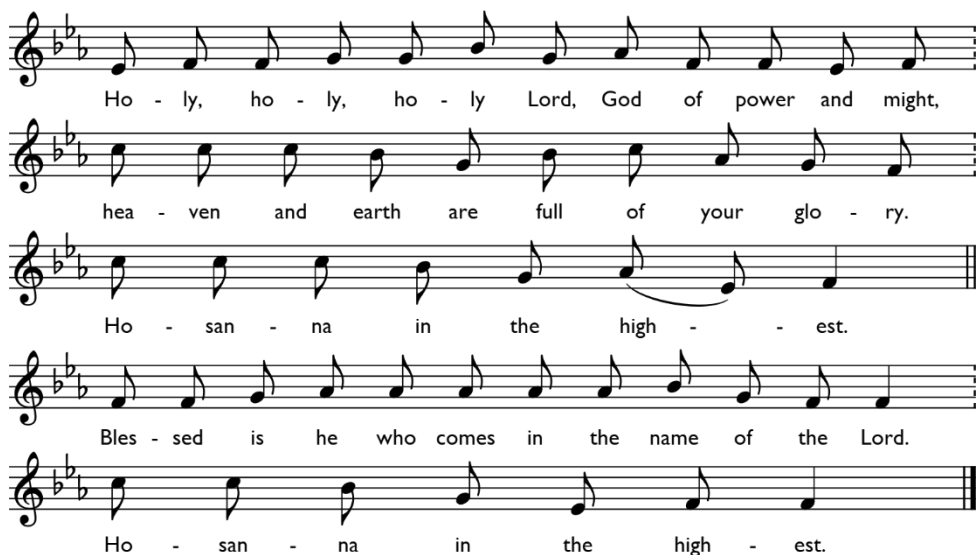
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and singing:



All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction  
for the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

*All* **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,  
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,  
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins  
and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,  
to offer you any sacrifice,  
yet we pray that you will accept this  
the duty and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,  
and fill us all who share in this holy communion  
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All* **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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ,

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communicant members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Holy Communion at All Hallows. All others may come forward for a prayer of blessing - please indicate this by bowing your head.*

## Music During Communion

*Gabriel's Message, Piae Cantiones 1852 – Tr JM Neale*

## Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## Notices

# The Dismissal

*Please stand.*

## Hymn

Lift up your heads ye mighty gates;  
Behold, the King of glory waits,  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Saviour of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ as ruler is confessed;  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this king in triumph comes.

Come then, O Saviour, and abide,  
Our hearts to thee be open wide;  
May all thy inward presence feel,  
To all thy grace and love reveal.

*George Weissel (1590-1635) Tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) Tune: Gonfalon Royal*

## The Blessing

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Music after the Service

*Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn BWV 601 – J S Bach*

***You are invited to stay for refreshments after the service.***



## Notices

### A month of carols

It's been wonderful to welcome so many people to All Hallows this month. People have been able to hang their prayer on our Christmas Tree. We have organised Carol Services for: The Mission to Seafarers; The Worshipful Company of World Traders; The Methodist College of Columbo; HMRC; Commonwealth War Graves Foundation; Marsh McClennan; The Sailors Society; and Streetwise Opera. Friends from several organisations also read at our Festive Carols by Candlelight on Thursday evening.



# Christmas at All Hallows by the Tower

We are looking forward to hosting a large number of carol services for local charities and companies. We hope you will join us for the following:

Wednesday 17 December, 6.00pm

**Taizé Prayers around the Crib**

Sunday 21 December, 4.00pm

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Wednesday 24 December, 11.30pm

**Midnight Mass**

Thursday 25 December, 11.00am

**Christmas Day Eucharist**



## Parish Giving Scheme

All Hallows by the Tower is part of the Parish Giving Scheme. PGS allows you to set up planned giving on a monthly, quarterly or annual Direct Debit. This helps us to plan our budget accordingly, as the gifts and 25% Gift Aid are processed regularly - turning every pound you give into Christian service in this community. You can even choose the option to increase your gift annually in line with inflation (you would be contacted in advance to confirm you are happy with the increase). You give securely, and you can choose to give anonymously, if you prefer.

To sign up, please visit: <https://bit.ly/47sCrZO>

## Environmental Sustainability Working Group

One of the five Church of England Marks of Mission is, *'to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'* At All Hallows by the Tower we are totally committed to supporting this objective, and do everything possible to support environmental sustainability. We've established an Environmental Sustainability Working Group, focused on actions rather than meetings. One of our primary objectives will be to prepare an application for recognition of our church for Gold status as an Eco-Church. We already hold Silver status, and if we reach Gold we will be the first church in the City Deanery to receive this award.

Dorothy Lawrence and The Rev'd Dr John Barker have both agreed to serve on the working group. If you think you may be interested to join, please do talk informally with either one or both of them to get more information.

## **The Week Ahead**

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### **Church Opening Times**

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm      Saturday-Sunday: 10am-5pm

### **Services at All Hallows**

You are welcome to join us for any of our services in church.  
Our Sunday Eucharist and Taizé services are streamed on Zoom.

#### **Monday 15 December**

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.30pm Evening Prayer

#### **Tuesday 16 November**

8.30am Morning Prayer

6pm Carol Service for the  
Worshipful Companies of  
Bakers, Woolmen and  
Watermen & Lightermen

#### **Wednesday 17 November**

8.30am Morning Prayer

6pm Taizé Prayers around the  
Crib

#### **Thursday 18 December**

8.30am Said Eucharist

4.30pm Evening Prayer

#### **Friday 19 December**

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.30pm Evening Prayer

#### **Saturday 20 December**

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.30pm Evening Prayer

### **Sunday 21 November: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

11am Parish Eucharist; Preacher: The Revd Nicol Kinrade

4pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

### **Taizé Prayer – Wednesdays at 6pm**

Our weekly Taizé service takes place **in church and online**. You are welcome to join us for this meditative time of prayer, music and reflection.

If you can't attend in person and would like to join us online,  
you can view the livestream at **[ahbtt.org.uk/livestream](https://ahbtt.org.uk/livestream)**.

*Zoom links are included in our weekly email, but if you would like a link for a particular service or event please email **[parish@ahbtt.org.uk](mailto:parish@ahbtt.org.uk)**.*

### **Weekly Email**

Sign up to our email to receive our weekly news – go to [ahbtt.org.uk](https://ahbtt.org.uk), enter your email address in the 'Join our Mailing List' box and click 'Subscribe'.

### **Byward Kitchen & Bar**

The Byward Kitchen is open for drinks, meals and light refreshments from 9am-3.30pm, with indoor and outdoor seating available.

**[bywardkitchenandbar.com](https://bywardkitchenandbar.com)**

## ***The Team at All Hallows***

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Vicar .....	The Revd Nicol Kinrade
Associate Priest .....	The Revd Dr John Barker
Parish Administrator .....	Michael Griffiths
Education & History Officer .....	Adey Grummet
Director of Music .....	David Cook
Churchwardens .....	Di Robertshaw & Robert Stichbury
Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ahbtt.org.uk) .....	Sarah Alder

## **All Hallows by the Tower with St Dunstan in the East**

Byward Street, London, EC3R 5BJ

Tel: 020 7481 2928 Email: parish@ahbtt.org.uk

Registered Charity no 1129137

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