

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion



Advent Season

Sunday 8th December 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon Sarah

Preacher Rev Pauline

Presiding Canon Simon

No Gloria as in Lent

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

In this season of Advent,
we prepare our hearts
for the coming of Emmanuel God with us

In our watching and in our waiting

Come Christ Jesus

In our hopes and in our fears

Come Christ Jesus

Into our hearts, our homes, and into the world

Come Christ Jesus

HYMN 38 - Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

*Hark, a thrilling voice is calling;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day."*

*Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ her Sun, all ill dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo, the Lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.*

*That when next He comes with glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
With his mercy he may shield us,
And with words of love draw near.*

***Honour, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit.
While eternal ages run.***

EDWARD CASWALL (1814 – 1878)

Please be seated

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Come Christ Jesus
Awaken our peace

(The candles are lit)

Come, Christ Jesus.
Awaken our peace. Let it rise and shine and live. Amen.

All age talk

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Let us make our confession to the coming Lord

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

CONFESSION

Please sit or kneel for a moment of quiet & reflection

O promised Christ, our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises. Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. We and the world wait for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *us*, pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins, confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness, and keep *us* in life eternal.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1: 3-11 Read by Helen

My brothers and sisters. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 46 - On Jordan's bank

***On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.***

***Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty Guest may come.***

***For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.***

***To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.***

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

CHARLES COFFIN (1676 – 1749)
translated by JOHN CHANDLER (1806 – 1876)

GOSPEL READING Luke 3: 1-6 (Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev Pauline

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand to affirm our Faith using the words of the **NICENE CREED**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Christine

Please sit or kneel

These responses may be used

Christ within us and Christ around us

Bring Light to our world

at the end

Light of the world

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

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
and also with you

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 604 - Brother, sister, let me serve you.

(During the offertory hymn the bread & wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

***Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.***

***We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
we are here to help each other.
walk the mile and bear the load.***

***I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.***

***I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.***

***When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.***

***Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.***

RICHARD A. M. GILLARD (b. 1953)

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,
**Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit or kneel - The Choir may remain standing

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

we lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*:

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

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you
for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

***Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and
ever. Amen.***

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

The Agnus Dei is sung:

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to
come, but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him
more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a
blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the
front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar,
followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy
Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung
during communion (please remain seated)

Anthem Author of life divine (McDowell)

Hymn: 42 - Longing for light.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

**Your word alone has power to save
us.**

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

**Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

longing for warmth, many are cold.

**Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility
and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**God of new beginnings,
you have fed us at your table
with the bread of renewed hope,
now kindle within us the fire of your love
to be ready to greet Emmanuel,
God with us. Amen**

HYMN 721 - Love divine

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.*

*Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

Emmanuel God with us,
the Prophets spoke of your coming,
as a child born to Mary.
In the sadness and joy of your children,
in the work and fellowship of our homes,
Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, the Prophets spoke of your
coming to bring justice,
compassion and freedom

Your Kingdom come

Lord Jesus, be born within us,
that we may live in your world with
love and gentleness

Your Kingdom come

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon *us*,
scatter the darkness from before *our* path,
and make *us* 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 *us* and remain with *us* always.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Before you go

We're so glad that you decided to join us today.

If you are new to the church and would like us to keep in touch,
or to arrange a time when we can visit you,
please leave your details with us.

You are very welcome to join us for refreshments in the centre
following the service.

**May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face
to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.**

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