



Service of Holy Communion



Advent Season

Sunday 15th December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon Gill

Preacher Gerda

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 34 - *Earth was waiting*

*Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations
it is time he should appear!*

*Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.*

***Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran -
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.***

WALTER CHALMERS SMITH (1824–1908)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent 3 Responses (Please be seated)

Come Christ Jesus
Awaken our joy

The candles are lit

Come, Christ Jesus.
Awaken our joy. 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 remain seated 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)

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare
the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7 **Read by Margaret**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 37 - *Hark what a sound*

*Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?*

*Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!*

*This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.*

*Through life and death, through sorrow
and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.*

FREDERIC WILLIAM HENRY MYERS (1843–1901)*

GOSPEL READING Luke 3: 7-18

(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.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Gerda

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 Sarah

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 47 - *People, look east*

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

***People, look east to see at last
hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning,
see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold,
prophets' dreams from days of old.***

***God reaffirms the gracious call:
words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows;
justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
freed to praise and serve the Lord.***

***Now, with the coming of the light,
darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,
blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days,
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.***

***Born of our race, a child so small
hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,
he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again:
see, he comes in power to reign!***

MARTIN LECKEBUSCH (b. 1962)

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: Lamb of God (Webbe)

Hymn: 609 - Christ is the world's light

***Christ is the world's light, he and none other:
born in our darkness, he became our
brother;
we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.***

if

***Christ is the world's peace, he and none other:
no one can serve him and despise a brother;
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.***

***Christ is the world's life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.***

***Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother;
Glory to God on high.***

FRED PRATT GREEN (1903–2000) 609 Words: © 1969, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England
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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet

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.

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: 39 - *Hills of the north, rejoice*

*Hills of the North, rejoice,
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the advent voice
Valley and lowland, sing:
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.*

*Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.*

*Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord
To you he comes, the final word.*

*Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.*

***Shout, as you journey home,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the universe be blest.***

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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