

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# Service of Holy Communion



## Advent Season

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

**Deacon: Gerda**  
**Preacher: Canon Simon**  
**Presiding: Rev Pauline**

## **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 315 - *Sing we of the blessed Mother***

***Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel's word,  
and obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
sing we of the joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed  
who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.***

***Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
when beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
saw the price of man's  
redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.***

***Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
from on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
heavenly breath of God's own being,  
manifest through wind and flame.***

***Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was  
done,  
and the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
raised on high and crowned with  
grace,  
may your Son, the world's redeemer,  
grant us all to see his face.***

GEORGE B. TIMMS (1910–1997)

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

### **Advent 4 Responses – Lighting of the Candle**

Come, Christ Jesus  
**Awaken our love**

*The Candles are lit*

Come, Christ Jesus  
**Awaken our love.**  
**Let it rise & shine and live. Amen**

***All age Talk – Canon Simon***

## **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)**

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs  
of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)**

**New Testament Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10**

**Read by Kay S**

When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’ When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 40 - Into the darkness of this world**

*Into the darkness of this world,  
into the shadows of the night,  
into this loveless place you came,  
lightened our burden, eased our pain,  
and made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come with your love to make us whole.  
Come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Into the longing of our souls,  
into these heavy hearts of stone,  
shine on us now your piercing light,  
order our lives and souls aright,  
by grace and love unknown,  
until in you our hearts unite  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come with your love to make us whole.  
Come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*O Holy Child, Emmanuel,  
Hope of the ages, God with us,  
visit again this broken place,  
till all the earth declare your praise  
and your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us —  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come in your glory, take your place,  
Jesus, the Name above all names,  
we long to see you face to face:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

## **GOSPEL READING Luke 1: 39-55**

(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.***

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON Canon Simon**

### **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 Jennifer D

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 75 - *Long ago, prophets knew*

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

**Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

**God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
he will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

**Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected,**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

**Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!*

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**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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:** In the Bleak Midwinter (Darke)

**Hymn: 85 - *The Angel Gabriel***

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

**"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!**

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!**

Basque Carol

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
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 394 - *Tell out my soul***

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

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.***