



Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent
4 December 2022

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, it is good to have you here.

Personal photographs you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)

We stand as the bell sounds to mark the beginning of our worship. As we sing our first hymn the altar party and choir process into church.

HYMN

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 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.
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Jordanis oras praevia - Charles Coffin (1676-1749) translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)

GREETING

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

All Amen.

Minister The Lord be with you,

All and also with you.

Words of welcome may be said.

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE – THE PROPHETS

Minister Jesus said,

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets:
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

All Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit.

Minister God our Father,

you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.

You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.

Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.

Choir/All Prophet voices loudly crying,

making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.

Through their message - challenged, shaken
hearts awaken: God is near!

Mark Earey © 2002 Mark Earey

CONFESSION

Deacon When the Lord comes,

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

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Minister Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Minister Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Minister Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Minister May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding. The Collect is said.

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.

All Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth

with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

SECOND READING Romans 15.4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

HYMN

- 1 When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.
- 2 He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000) Words: © 1980, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England. used by permission

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3.1-12

Choir/All Alleluia!

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

Choir/All Alleluia!

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

CREED

Minister Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

This response may be included:

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

And at the end:

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

Silence is kept.

Minister Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.
By your coming,
raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

PEACE

Minister 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.

cf Luke 1.78,79

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

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

HYMN

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.

Editors of English Praise, 1975, based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)

TABLE PRAYER

- Minister As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.
- All **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Minister Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister The Lord be with you,

All and also with you.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister 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 signing:

**Choir/All Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Minister We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

**Choir/All Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord, worthy is the Lord God Almighty.
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord, worthy is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come. Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.**

Minister Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Choir/All **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord, glory to the Lord God Almighty.
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord, glory to the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come, glory, glory, glory to the Lord.**

Silence may be kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Minister **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.**

Choir/All **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God almighty.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Minister **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.**

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

HYMNS

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us;
 let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation,
 joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
 born a child and yet a king;
 born to reign in us for ever;
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thy own eternal Spirit,
 rule in all our hearts alone:
 by thy all-sufficient merit,
 raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

- 1 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
 'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
 'cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day.'
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
 let the earth-bound soul arise;
 Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
 shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 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;
- 4 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.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
 to the Father and the Son,

with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

Edward Caswall (1814–1878) based on Vox clama ecce intonat, (Latin, 5th or 6th century)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister 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.

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NOTICES

HYMN

1 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.

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

2 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.

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

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

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

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000) Words: © 1971, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England. Used by permission

BLESSING

Minister 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.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Deacon May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

All **Amen.**

The people and ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Noel Rawsthorne: Improvisation on the First Noel

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Richard H, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath T, June M, Jenny A, Andrew E, Hilly S, Hannah and family.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley C, Diana B.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then tell Pat Thomas whom to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those who have died recently, among them Ron Woodbrige and Gwendoline Hustwait.

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Winifred Mary Cooper, Isabel Galilee, Alison Clark, Frank Pierce, Alan Frank Knight, Dora Foskitt, Walter George Swain, Hilda Grace Marriot, Phyllis Ward, Derreck Pierce, James William Eades, Constance Bailey, Edith Blaber, Robert Jeffery Odell, Mary Parkin, May Wallis, Iris Robins, Eileen Falkner, David Innis, Terrance Daniel Smith, Arthur Toyer, Bill Clayson, Anthony Hayers, Margaret Cooke.

NOTICES

Festival of Carols Tuesday 20 December 19:30, All Hallows.

Advent Course Thursdays 19:00-20:30, via Zoom. You can still join by emailing the Church Office for the link, or find it on our Facebook pages.

Lighting up the darkness – a Wellingborough Interfaith Group Christmas celebration with Christingle, Saturday 10 December 14:00-16:00, Victoria Centre.

Wellingborough Singers' concert Saturday 10 December 17:00, United Reformed Church. Tickets available at the door.

Children's Society box holders please bring your boxes to church for the annual opening. Alternatively ask Lynne Burton (phone: 01933 677093) to collect your box.

All Saints' Christmas Quiz is available. Price £1. All funds go towards the upkeep of our church.

Would you like to help with our Christingle and Nativity services? Publicity, stewarding, helping with the service, making Christingles, etc. Please contact Pat Thomas or Angie if you can contribute in any way to spreading the Good News to the young families in our community.

Do you enjoy singing? Join the church choirs for the Carol Service on 20 December - have a word with Tony (07867 554476, TonyE1960@aol.com).

DIARY

Mon 5 Dec

Tues 6 Dec

Nicholas

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop

Wed 7 Dec

Ambrose

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop
10:30-12:30 All Hallows open to the public
12:15-13:00 All Hallows Midweek Eucharist
19:00-20:00 All Saints AS choir practice

Thurs 8 Dec

Conception

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer
10:00-10:30 All Saints Holy Communion
19:00-20:00 All Hallows Handbell practice

Fri 9 Dec

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop
19:00-20:30 All Hallows AH choir practice

Sat 10 Dec

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop
10:30-12:30 All Hallows open to the public
14:00-16:00 Victoria Centre Interfaith Group: Lighting up the darkness

Sun 11 Dec

Advent 3

9:15-10:30 All Saints Eucharist
11:15-12:30 All Hallows Eucharist
16:00-14:00 All Saints Christingle
18:00-19:00 Zoom Compline

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