



## Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Advent  
11 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*Personal photographs you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*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           Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
            and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
            let every age adoring fall;  
            such birth befits the God of all.
- 2           Begotten of no human will,  
            but of the Spirit, thou art still  
            the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
            the Saviour, now to us displayed.
- 3           From God the Father he proceeds,  
            to God the Father back he speeds,  
            runs out his course to death and hell,  
            returns on God's high throne to dwell.
- 4           O equal to thy Father, thou!  
            Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
            the weakness of our mortal state  
            with deathless might invigorate.
- 5           Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
            and darkness glow with new-born light,  
            no more shall night extinguish day,  
            where love's bright beams their power display.
- 6           O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee  
            eternal praise and glory be,

whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

*Veni Redemptor gentium - St Ambrose (c.340–397) translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and others*

## **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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Minister Jesus said,  
'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born;  
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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

*The third candle is lit.*

Minister God our Father,  
you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in their old age  
a son called John.  
He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,  
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,  
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**All Amen.**

Choir/All 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 © 2002 Mark Earey*

## CONFESSION

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.*

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.

**All Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** Isaiah 35.1-10

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.

*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** James 5.7-10

Be patient, 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.

*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 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)*

## GOSPEL READING Matthew 11.2-11

### Choir/All Alleluia!

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

### Choir/All Alleluia!

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, '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.**

## **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:*

**All Lord, in your mercy,  
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 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,

and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing:  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless name of love.

*James Montgomery (1771–1854) based on Psalm 72*

## 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 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.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All**      **Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

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.**

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

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

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

## 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.*

## **ANTHEM** Vaughan Williams: The truth from above

### **HYMN**

- 1 O Child of promise, come!  
O come, Emmanuel!  
Come, Prince of Peace, to David's throne;  
come, God, with us to dwell.
- 2 The Lord's true Servant, come,  
in whom is his delight,  
on whom his Holy Spirit rests,  
the Gentiles' promised light.
- 3 O come, Anointed One,  
to show blind eyes your face!  
Good tidings to the poor announce;  
proclaim God's year of grace!
- 4 O come, Messiah King,  
to reign in endless light,  
when heavenly peace at last goes forth  
from Sion's holy height.

*James Quinn, SJ (1919–2010) Words: © 1969, Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd, The Tower Building,  
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### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Minister 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.

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 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and John Cennick (1718–1755)*

## 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

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

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

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

All        **Amen.**

*The people and ministers depart.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY Jehan Alain: Litanies

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## OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

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

**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 died **recently**, among them baby Iona, Ronald Woodbridge, Gwendoline Hustwait. We pray for those who mourn.

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Joan Stephenson, Eddie McHugh, Jose Marsh, Frederick Lee, Alexander Aron Bailey, George Renton Addie, Arthur William Lovell, Patricia Wortley, Margaret Ellison, Peter Barrett, Jason Slate, Margaret James, Gwen Timpson, Russell Fletcher, Hope Barbara Lawrence, Bill Raitt, Madge Clayson, Albert Raul Melchor, Brett Tussler.

## NOTICES

**Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** Tuesday 20 December 19:30, All Hallows. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE & TIME. It will be a traditional service with many favourite carols and readings with both church choirs.

**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.

**Tea @2** Tuesday 13 December 14:00, St Andrew's Hall.

**All Hallows' Christmas Quiz** is available. Cost £1. Please contact either Bob or Margaret at All Hallows.

**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).

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## DIARY

### Mon 12 Dec

9:30-15:00	All Hallows	Organ tuning
9:30-10:30	All Saints	Highfield Nursery visit to church
13:30-14:30	All Saints	Highfield Nursery visit to church

### Tues 13 Dec

#### Lucy

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-11:00	All Hallows	Funeral of Mr Ronald Woodbridge
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
14:00-15:00	St Andrew's Hall	Tea @2

### Wed 14 Dec

#### John of the Cross

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
13:15-15:00	All Saints	School Nativity rehearsal
19:00-20:00	All Saints	AS choir practice

### Thurs 15 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-10:30	All Saints	BCP Holy Communion
13:15-15:00	All Saints	school Nativity
19:00-20:00	Zoom	Advent Course session 3
19:00-20:00	All Hallows	Handbell practice

### Fri 16 Dec

9:00-12:30	All Saints	Wellingborough School carol services
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
19:00-20:30	All Hallows	AH choir practice

### Sat 17 Dec

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public
17:00-18:00	All Saints	Blue Christmas Service

### Sun 18 Dec

#### Advent 4

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