



# 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.*

***A REMINDER THAT WE ARE NOW SHARING THE COMMON CUP AT THE EUCHARIST. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE THE WINE, YOU MAY TAKE COMMUNION IN ONE KIND. PLEASE NOTE THAT INTINCTING EITHER BY THE PRIEST OR COMMUNICANT IS NO LONGER PERMISSIBLE.***

*Personal photographs you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*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 Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
the sun has come up, the night is behind.  
Go down in the city, into the street,  
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*Chorus So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
open the door, let Jesus return.  
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

2 Go through the park, on into the town;  
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.  
The light of the world is risen again;  
the people of darkness are needing a friend.

3 Open your eyes, look into the sky,  
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.  
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
but Jesus is living, his Spirit is near.

*Sue McClellan (b. 1951), John Paculabo (1946–2013) and Keith Rycroft (b. 1949)  
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## 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

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.*

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.*

## **ANTHEM** People, look east (traditional Besancon carol)

People, look East, the time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Star is on the way.

Angels announce to man and beast  
Him that cometh from the East.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, '*The Lord is coming*',  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.

## **GOSPEL READING** Matthew 11.2-11

### **Choir/All Alleluia!**

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 Glory 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 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.

*Chorus* Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 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.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

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

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## 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 The advent of our King  
our prayers must now employ,  
and we must hymns of welcome sing  
in strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son  
incarnate deigns to be;  
himself a servant's form puts on,  
to set his servants free.
- 3 Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
nor let thy faithless heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,  
he soon will come again,

and his true members all unite  
with him in heaven to reign.

5 All glory to the Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever One,  
through all eternity.

*Instantis adventum Dei - Charles Coffin (1676-1749)  
translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)*

1 The Lord will come and not be slow,  
his footsteps cannot err;  
before him righteousness shall go,  
his royal harbinger.

2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
shall bud and blossom then;  
and justice, from her heavenly bower,  
look down on mortals all.

3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,  
this wicked earth redress;  
for thou art he who shalt by right  
the nations all possess.

4 The nations all whom thou hast made  
shall come, and all shall frame  
to bow them low before thee, Lord,  
and glorify thy name.

5 For great thou art, and wonders great  
by thy strong hand are done:  
thou in thy everlasting seat  
remainest God alone.

*John Milton, the elder (c.1563-1647) based on verses from Psalms 82, 85, 86*

## **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 "Peggy" 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 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 18 December - have a word with Tony (07867 554476, TonyE1960@aol.com).

## DIARY

### Mon 12 Dec

9:30-15:00 All Hallows Organ tuning

### Tues 13 Dec

#### Lucy

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer  
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 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 Holy Communion  
13:15-15:00 All Saints school Nativity  
19:00-20:00 All Hallows Handbell practice

### Fri 16 Dec

9:00-12:30 All Saints school 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

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