



Holy Communion

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Personal photographs you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)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

Chorus *Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!*

1 Now all the world belongs to Christ our Lord:
let all creation greet the living Word!

2 Who has the right to worship him today?
All those who gladly serve him and obey.

3 He comes to save all those who trust his name,
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.

4 Who is the victor glorious from the fight?
He is our king, our life, our Lord, our right!

*Michael Perry (1942–1996) based on Psalm 24 (A Song of the King's Glory)
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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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE – MARY

Minister Jesus said,
'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants
is my brother or sister or mother.'

**All I am the servant of the Lord.
Let it be to me according to his word.**

The fourth candle is lit.

Minister God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.

**Choir/All Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
Cross and glory; empty tomb!**

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.

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.

All **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 7.10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

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 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 1.46-55 (Magnificat, The Song of Mary)
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GOSPEL READING Matthew 11.18-25

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!

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Charles Villiers Stanford: Magnificat in B flat

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm,
he hath scattered the proud, in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
As he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen .

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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again
he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.

HYMNS

1 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
 the Saviour promised long:
 let every heart prepare a throne,
 and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release
 in Satan's bondage held;

the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751) based on Luke 4.18-19

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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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister 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.

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 Sing we the song of high revolt;
make great the Lord, his name exalt!
Sing we the song that Mary sang
of God at war with human wrong.
- 2 Sing we of him who deeply cares
and still with us our burden bears.
He who with strength the proud disowns,
brings down the mighty from their thrones.
- 3 By him the poor are lifted up;
he satisfies with bread and cup
the hungry ones of many lands;
the rich must go with empty hands.
- 4 He calls us to revolt and fight
with him for what is just and right,

to sing and live Magnificat
in crowded street or council flat.

Fred Kaan (b1929). 1968 Stainer & Bell

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 Improvisation on "Woodlands"

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setting: St Thomas' Mass

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Prayer (1662)

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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, 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 whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Mary Ann Short, Florence Redden, Geoffrey Manning, James Reginald Boulden, Molly Celia Lovell, Mabel Howard Freeman, Margarete Ellen Mason, Sydney Frank Woodhams, Anne-Marie Charlton, Mary Morgan, Mavis Marion Charlton, Rex Line, Marjorie Steele, Sheila Kingston, Anthony Michael Buckmaster, Gustav Petrikat, Michael Alan Houghton, Phyllis Russell, Trudy Marie Page, Gladys Walker, Edwin Steele, Horace Martin, Jonathon Harris, Lily Patrick.

NOTICES

Our services on Christmas week:

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

Nativity Saturday 24 December 16:00, All Saints

Midnight Mass Saturday 24 December 23:30, All Hallows

Christmas Day Eucharists 25 December:

8:00 All Saints

9:15 All Saints

10:00 All Hallows

If you would like to make a contribution towards Christmas flowers for the church this year, please pass your donation to Ann Harrison.

Can you help decorate All Hallows on 23 December? If yes, please tell Ann Harrison.

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

Benefice magazine deadline 8 January. Please send your articles for the Winter issue to Becky at magazine@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk.

DIARY

Mon 19 Dec

10:00-11:00 All Saints Funeral of Mrs Gwendoline Hustwait

Tues 20 Dec

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop
19:30-20:30 All Hallows Festival of Carols

Wed 21 Dec

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

Thurs 22 Dec

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer
10:00-10:30 All Saints Holy Communion

Fri 23 Dec

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

Sat 24 Dec

Christmas Eve

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop
16:00-17:00 All Saints Nativity
23:30-0:30 All Hallows Midnight Mass

Sun 25 Dec

Christmas

8:00-8:30 All Saints Eucharist
9:15-10:30 All Saints Eucharist
10:00-11:15 All Hallows Eucharist

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