



Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

Third Sunday of Advent

17 December 2023

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether you are here for the first time or a more regular worshipper, we are delighted to have you with us, and we hope that you will enjoy the service.

All that you need to follow the service from beginning to end is contained in this leaflet. If you would prefer a large print copy, please indicate this to the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.

Refreshments are served before the service, feel free to take your drink to your pew for the start of the service.

There is no cash collection taken during the service, however, we welcome donations (large and small!) towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine, both of which can be found near the entrance of the 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 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 baptised 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.

**All/choir 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 61.1-4,8-11

The servant of the Lord said:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the

Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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 Sing we the praises of the great forerunner,
tell forth the mighty wonders of his story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips and make them
fit to extol him.
- 2 Lo, God's high herald, swift from heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of marvels
that shall befall thee.
- 3 Oft had the prophets in the time before thee
spoken in vision of the Daystar's coming;
but when he came, 'twas thou that didst proclaim him
Saviour of all men.

*Ut queant laxis resonare fibris. Paul the Deacon (730–799)
translated by Charles Stanley Phillips (1883–1949) Words: © Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd*

GOSPEL READING John 1.6-8,19-28

All/choir Alleluia!

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

All/choir Alleluia!

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

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 always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

HYMN

1 Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
 with a mingled hope and fear,
 faithful men and women praying,
 'Surely, Lord, the day is near:

the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!

- 2 Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.
- 3 Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908)

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister The Lord is here.

All His spirit is with us.

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:

**All/choir 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

All/choir 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.

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.**

All/choir **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.

COMMUNION MOTET Graham Ellis: There is no Rose

There is no Rose of such virtue, as is the rose that bare Jesu,
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space,
Resmiranda.

By that rose we may well see, that he is God in persons three,
Parisforma.

Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.

HYMN

1 Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,

didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

3 When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a virgin-mother's womb.

4 At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

5 To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.

6 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. (Amen.)

translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) based on Conditor alme siderum, Latin, 6th or 7th century

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 **We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

NOTICES

HYMN

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Chorus Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

John Mason Neale (1818–1866) translated from Latin Advent Antiphons

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 G. F. Handel: And the glory of the Lord

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in **body, mind or spirit**, among them Richard Hole, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath Thomas, June Morby, Jenny Attewell, Hilly S, Diana Brown, Graham Earl, Mary Ricketts, Marion Dent, John Burton.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman.

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 please email Pat Thomas (pat_hotmail.co.uk) with the name of the person to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Arthur William Lovell, Patricia Wortley, 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, Brett Tussler, Phyllis Russell, Trudy Marie Page, Gladys Walker, Winifred Worley.

The recently departed, among them Ann Aberdeen. Her funeral is on 20 December at 10:00 at All Saints. We pray for those who mourn.

NOTICES

Thursday morning 10am BCP Holy Communion at All Saints has been put on hold over the winter months.

Magazine deadline 7 January. Please send your articles to Becky at magazine@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

If you would like to help with Christmas flowers in any way, please let Ann Harrison know. We decorate the church on 22 December. Donations are also appreciated.

Handbell ringing No musical knowledge is needed. No pressure, no public performances. Sessions: Thursdays 15:00 All Hallows' Hall.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Thursday 21 December 19:00, All Saints.

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December

10:00 Benefice Service – All Hallows

18:00 Nativity – All Saints

23:30 Midnight Mass – All Hallows

Christmas Day, Monday 25 December

8:00 Holy Communion – All Saints

9:15 Eucharist – All Saints

10:00 Eucharist – All Hallows

Sunday 31 December

10:00 Eucharist – All Saints

DIARY

Mon 18 Dec

9:15-11:00	All Hallows' Hall	Little Acorns pre-school group
13:15-15:00	All Saints	School rehearsal

Tues 19 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
9:30-10:30	All Saints	School Nativity

Wed 20 Dec

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15-12:45	All Hallows	Midweek Eucharist

Thurs 21 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-11:00	All Saints	Funeral RIP Doreen James
19:00-20:00	All Saints	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Fri 22 Dec

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
18:15-19:45	All Hallows	junior choir practice
19:30-21:00	All Hallows	adult choir practice

Sat 23 Dec

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public

Sun 24 Dec **Christmas Eve**

10:00-11:00	All Hallows	Benefice service
18:00-19:00	All Saints	Nativity
23:30-0:30	All Hallows	Midnight Mass

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