



## Holy Communion

All Saints' 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.*

*During the service our children and young people are invited to join Y.E.S. (Young Eager Saints) which meets in the Lady Chapel towards the front of the church. They meet at the children's area before 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.*

*After the service refreshments are served at the back of church, please do join us.*

*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 at the back 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 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.**

**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 Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 6 Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,

here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

*Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

## **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:*

**All** Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

*And at the end:*

**All** Merciful Father,  
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 Thy kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.
- 2 Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?
- 3 When comes the promised time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?
- 4 We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.
- 5 Men scorn thy sacred name,  
and wolves devour thy fold;  
by many deeds of shame  
we learn that love grows cold.
- 6 O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O Morning Star,  
arise, and never set!

*Lewis Hensley (1824-1905)*



## 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 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, God of might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**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 Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us [*x2*].

Jesus, bread of life, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us [*x2*].

Jesus, Prince of Peace, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us your peace [*x4*].

## 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 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Rop tu mo baile, a Choindiu cride (Irish, 8th century)  
translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931), versified by Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935)*

- 1 The people that in darkness sat  
a glorious light have seen;  
the light has shined on them who long  
in shades of death have been.
- 2 To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
the gathering nations come;

they joy as when the reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.

3 For thou their burden dost remove,  
and break the tyrant's rod,  
as in the day when Midian fell  
before the sword of God.

4 For unto us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulder ever rests  
all power in earth and heaven.

5 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
the everlasting Lord,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the God by all adored.

6 His righteous government and power  
shall over all extend;  
on judgement and on justice based,  
his reign shall have no end.

7 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
and make us thine alone,  
who with the Father ever art  
and Holy Spirit One.

*Scottish Paraphrases, 1781 - John Morrison (1750-1798) based on Isaiah 9.2-7*

## **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 Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth you now bring us:  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!*

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:  
shine on me, shine on me.

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story:  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) Words and Music: © 1987, Graham Kendrick / Make Way Music Ltd.*

## 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.*

## **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 Sharp, 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 is on hold in winter.

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

**Children Society box holders** and supporters: Lynne has postponed the collection date until after Christmas. If you have a full box and need an extra, please let Lynne know. Many thanks for your understanding and ongoing generous support.

**Scented Christmas decorations** are available from Caroline, in aid of our church.

**All Saints' Christmas Quiz sheets are on sale.** See Caroline or Pat for your copy.

**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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