



## Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

24 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 Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.

Chorus *Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*When he comes, when he comes,*  
*who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
he will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:

till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected,

4 Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

Chorus *Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*Jesus comes! Jesus comes!*  
*We will make him welcome!*

*Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000) Words: © 1971, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England. Used by permission*

## **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.**

**All/choir**   **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 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

*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 16.25-27

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*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 Luke 1.26-38

**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 Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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        Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling  
          the watchmen all the air are filling,  
          arise, Jerusalem, arise!  
          Midnight strikes! No more delaying,  
          'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,  
          'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?  
          The Bridegroom comes in sight,  
          raise high your torches bright!'  
          Alleluia!  
          The wedding song swells loud and strong:  
          go forth and join the festal throng.
- 2        Zion hears the watchmen shouting,  
          her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,  
          she stands and waits with eager eyes;  
          see her Friend from heaven descending,  
          adorned with truth and grace unending!  
          Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.  
          Now come, thou precious Crown,  
          Lord Jesus, God's own Son!  
          Alleluia!  
          Let us prepare to follow there,  
          where in thy supper we may share.
- 3        Every soul in thee rejoices;  
          from earth and from angelic voices  
          be glory given to thee alone!  
          Now the gates of pearl receive us,  
          thy presence never more shall leave us,  
          we stand with angels round thy throne.  
          Earth cannot give below  
          the bliss thou dost bestow.  
          Alleluia!  
          Grant us to raise, to length of days,  
          the triumph-chorus of thy praise.

*Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme - Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) trans. Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935)*



## 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 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 The angel Gabriel (trad. Basque carol)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
All hail,' said he 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady, gloria.'

'For know, a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
most highly favoured lady, gloria.'

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.'  
Most highly favoured lady, gloria.

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born,  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'Most highly favoured lady, gloria.'

## HYMN

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;

born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

- 4 By thy own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **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 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**

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** Sidney S. Campbell: Gaudeamus

## 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](mailto: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:** Gustav Petrikat, Michael Alan Houghton, Betty Irene Oram, Alice Jane Waite, Lily Pike, Emily Florence Hacksley, Dorothy Annie Falkner, Wynford Thomas, Ernest Edward Adams, Gordon Douglas Lambert, Margaret Hoather, Edwin Steele, Horace Martin, Jonathon Harris, Lily Patrick, Sheila Harrison, John Parkin, Florence Adams, Bertie Inness, David Anthony Inness, Jean West, Beryl Comry, Peter Joiner, Dorothy Lovell, Grace Steele, Delia Housden, Don Gough.

## NOTICES

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

**Benefice magazine deadline** 7 January. Please send your articles for the Winter issue to Becky at [magazine@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk](mailto:magazine@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk).

**This evening (24 December):**

18:00 Nativity – All Saints

23:30 Midnight Mass – All Hallows

## DIARY

<b>Mon 25 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
8:00-8:30	All Saints	Holy Communion
9:15-10:15	All Saints	Eucharist
10:00-11:00	All Hallows	Eucharist
<b>Tues 26 Dec</b>	<b>Stephen</b>	
<i>Bank holiday</i>		
<b>Wed 27 Dec</b>	<b>John the Evangelist</b>	
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
<b>Thurs 28 Dec</b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b>	
9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
<b>Fri 22 Dec</b>	<b>Thomas Becket</b>	
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
<b>Sat 30 Dec</b>		
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public
<b>Sun 31 Dec</b>	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b>	
10:00-11:00	All Saints	Benefice service

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