



Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

7 December 2025

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

*All you need to **follow the service** is contained in this leaflet. For a large print, please ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold. Music for the mass setting is available for you on the table by the main door, if you use one please do hand it back at the end of the service.*

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

*We don't take cash collection during the service, however we welcome **donations** towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine at the back of the church. Alternatively you can scan the QR code on the last page.*

Hymn

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.' | 4 That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near. |
| 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies. | 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run. |
| 3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down
from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven; | |

Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

based on Vox clama ecce intonat, (Latin, 5th or 6th century)

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 second Advent candle – the prophets

Minister Jesus said, 'Do not think
that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets:
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

All Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit.

Minister God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.

All/choir Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken
hearts awaken: God is near!

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'.
The Collect is said by a member of our congregation.*

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

All Amen.

First reading Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He

shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading Romans 15.4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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. | 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. |
| 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart. | 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)

Gospel reading Matthew 3.1-12

All Alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But

when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

Affirmation of faith

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.
We share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Preparation of the table

Hymn

- 1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in
righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.
- 2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.
- 3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed
to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.
- 4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er
our darkest night.
- 5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

*Editors of English Praise, 1975, based on Charles Ernest Oakley
(1832–1865)*

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.

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 singing:

**All/choir 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

**All/choir 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.**

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 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!

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.

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)

Motet G. F. Handel: How beautiful are the feet

How beautiful are the feet of them
that preacheth the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

Prayer after Communion

- Minister Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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

- 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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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

Our prayers are asked for

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Richard Hole, Susan Adams, Carol, Kay G, Diana Brown, Jo Thraves, Glennis Eades, Rita Hawkes, William, Steve Cavender.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman, Jenny Attewell, Margaret Eady.

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).

Remember the departed

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Dora Foskitt, Walter George Swain, Hilda Grace Marriot, Phyllis Ward, Derreck Pierce, James William Eades, Joan Stephenson, Eddie McHugh, Jean Lofts, Frank Sadler, Jack Lawrence, baby Iona, Margaret Ellison, Peter Barrett, Jason Slate, Margaret James, Gwen Timpson, Russell Fletcher.

Notices

Wellingborough Inter-Faith Group Thursday 4 December 19:00, Victoria Centre, Palk Road. Theme: *Learning together – initiation ceremonies and nurturing faith*. All welcome.

Carol singing in Swansgate Centre with The Salvation Army Band Saturday 13 December 12:00-13:00.

Christingle Sunday 14 December 16:00, All Saints.

Advent with the Celtic Saints event Saturday 20 December 9:00-11:15, starting in All Hallows' upper hall with breakfast, then continuing in church. All ages welcome - please sign up so we can plan catering.

If you would like to be confirmed, please speak to Rev Paula, Canon John, or Jess. Preparation classes in February, confirmation 1 March, All Hallows.

Help decorating the church for Christmas and donations towards the cost of flowers would be gratefully appreciated. Please speak to Ann Harrison or Anne Douglas if you would like to help or give a donation.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 23-25 October 2026. If interested, please contact Canon John. Deposits would need to be paid in January.

Diary

Mon 8 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom
9:15-11:00	All Hallows' Hall
18:00-19:15	St Mary's Hall
18:15-19:30	All Hallows' Hall
19:30-21:00	St Mary's Hall

Morning Prayer
Little Acorns pre-school group
4th Cubs
Brownies & Rainbows
4th Scouts

Tues 9 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom
9:30-12:00	All Hallows Hall
11:15-12:15	Park House
14:00-15:00	St Andrew's Hall

Morning Prayer
coffee shop
Care Home Communion
Tea @2

Wed 10 Dec

9:30-10:00	All Hallows
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall
10:30-13:00	All Hallows
12:15-13:00	All Hallows
19:00-20:30	All Hallows
19:00-20:30	All Hallows' Hall

Morning Prayer
coffee shop
open to the public
Holy Communion
Bell ringing
Guides

Thurs 11 Dec

9:30-10:00	All Saints
10:30-14:30	All Saints
18:15-19:30	St Mary's Hall

Morning Prayer
School visit
4th Beavers

Fri 12 Dec

9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall
18:30-19:45	All Saints
19:30-21:00	All Saints

coffee shop
junior choir practice
adult choir practice

Sat 13 Dec

Lucy

9:30-12:30	All Hallows' Hall
9:30-10:30	Dale End
10:30-12:30	All Hallows
12:00-13:00	Swansgate Centre

coffee shop
4th Squirrels
open to the public
Carol singing in Swansgate

Sun 14 Dec

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15-10:15	All Saints
11:15-12:15	All Hallows
16:00-17:00	All Saints
18:00-18:30	Zoom
19:30-21:30	All Hallows' Hall

Sung Eucharist
Sung Eucharist
Christingle
Compline
Pegasus Explorers

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