



Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

14 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.*

We serve refreshments 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 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 Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptised 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'.
The Collect is said by a member of our congregation.*

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 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading James 5.7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

- 1 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?
- 2 Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!
- 3 This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.
- 4 Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

Frederic William Henry Myers (1843–1901)

Gospel reading Matthew 11.2-11

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.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

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.

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 Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;
'tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me? | 2 'I delivered thee when bound,
and, when wounded, healed thy wound;
sought thee wandering, set thee right,
turned thy darkness into light. |
|---|--|

- 3 'Can a woman's tender care
cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
yet will I remember thee.
- 4 'Mine is an unchanging love,
higher than the heights above,
deeper than the depths beneath,
free and faithful, strong as death.
- 5 'Thou shalt see my glory soon,
when the work of grace is done;
partner of my throne shalt be:
say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'
- 6 Lord, it is my chief complaint
that my love is weak and faint;
yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!

William Cowper (1731-1800)

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.

Hymn

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger. | 3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess. |
| 2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice, from her heavenly bower,
look down on mortal men. | 4 The nations all whom thou hast made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee, Lord,
and glorify thy name. |

5 For great thou art, and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest God alone.

John Milton, the elder (c.1563–1647) based on verses from Psalms 82, 85, 86

Motet Simon Lindley: Ave Maria

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 In our darkness light has shone, Alleluia,
still today the light shines on, Alleluia;
Word made flesh in human birth, Alleluia,
Light and Life of all the earth, Alleluia!
- 2 Christ the Son incarnate see, Alleluia,
by whom all things came to be, Alleluia;
through the world his splendours shine, Alleluia,
full of grace and truth divine, Alleluia!
- 3 All who now in him believe, Alleluia,
everlasting life receive, Alleluia;
born of God and in his care, Alleluia,
we his name and nature share, Alleluia!
- 4 Christ a child on earth appears, Alleluia,
crown of all creation's years, Alleluia;

God's eternal Word has come, Alleluia,
he shall lead his people home, Alleluia!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on John 1.1-14

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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 Gordon Young: Prelude on a Classical Style

Diary

Mon 15 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:15-11:00	All Hallows' Hall	Little Acorns pre-school group
18:00-19:15	St Mary's Hall	4th Cubs
18:15-19:30	All Hallows' Hall	Brownies & Rainbows
19:30-21:00	St Mary's Hall	4th Scouts

Tues 16 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows Hall	coffee shop
13:15-15:00	All Saints	school rehearsal

Wed 17 Dec

9:30-10:00	All Hallows	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:30-13:00	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15-13:00	All Hallows	Holy Communion
16:00-17:00	Zoom	AH Pastoral Team meeting
19:00-20:30	All Hallows	Bell ringing
19:00-20:30	All Hallows' Hall	Guides

Thurs 18 Dec

9:30-10:00	All Saints	Morning Prayer
10:00-12:00	All Saints	open to the public
11:00-12:00	Midlands Care Home	Care Home Communion
13:15-14:30	All Saints	school Nativity
18:15-19:30	St Mary's Hall	4 th Beavers

Fri 19 Dec

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

Sat 20 Dec

9:00-11:15	All Hallows' Hall	Advent Study
9:30-12:30	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
9:30-10:30	Dale End	4 th Squirrels
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public

Sun 21 Dec 4th Sunday of Advent

9:15-10:15	All Saints	Sung Eucharist
11:15-12:15	All Hallows	Sung Eucharist
18:00-19:00	All Saints	Nine Lessons and Carols
19:30-21:30	All Hallows' Hall	Pegasus Explorers

Our prayers are asked for

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

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

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: Jose Marsh, Frederick Lee, Alexander Aron Bailey, George Renton Addie, 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, Hope Barbara Lawrence, Bill Raitt, Madge Clayson, Anne Cecelia Aberdeen, Albert Raul Melchor, Brett Tussler, Phyllis Russell, Trudy Marie Page.

Notices

Christingle today 14 December 16:00, All Saints.

Advent with the Celtic Saints study 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.

Nine Lessons and Carols Sunday 21 December 18:00, All Saints.

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.

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.

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