



Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

4th Sunday of Advent

21 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, 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 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

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

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 Isaiah 7.10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

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| 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. | 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. |
| Chorus
<i>Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?</i> | 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

Gospel reading Matthew 11.18-25

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.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

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|--|--|
| 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread. | 3 Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame. |
| 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free. | 4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face. |

George B. Timms (1910–1997) Words: © From English Praise, 1975, by permission of Oxford University Press

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 Hark the glad sound!
the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song. | 3 He comes, the broken
heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes, the prisoners
to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield. | 4 Our glad hosannas,
Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy belovèd name. |

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751) based on Luke 4.18-19

Motet The angel Gabriel (traditional 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.'

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 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 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)

Words: © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press

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 Charles V Stanford: Magnificat in B flat

Diary

Mon 22 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
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Tues 23 Dec

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows Hall	coffee shop

Wed 24 Dec

Christmas Eve

18:00-19:00	All Saints	Nativity
23:30-00:30	All Hallows' Hall	Midnight Mass

Thurs 25 Dec

Christmas Day

9:15-10:15	All Saints	Holy Communion
10:00-11:00	All Hallows	Holy Communion

Fri 26 Dec

Stephen

Sat 27 Dec

John the Evangelist

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

Sun 28 Dec

Christmas 1

10:00-11:00	All Hallows	Joint said Eucharist
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Our prayers are asked for

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them 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, Richard Hole.

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: Rex Line, Marjorie Steele, Sheila Kingston, Anthony Buckmaster, Gustav Petrikat, Michael Houghton, Betty Oram, Alice Waite, Lily Pike, Emily Hacksley, Dorothy Annie Falkner, Gladys Walker, Winifred Worley, Edwin Steele, Horace Martin, Jonathon Harris, Lily Patrick, Sheila Harrison, John Parkin, Florence Adams, Bertie Inness, David Inness, Jean West, Beryl Comry, Peter Joiner.

The recently departed, among them Dorcas Munday. We pray for those who mourn.

Notices

Nine Lessons and Carols today 18:00, All Saints.

Christmas Eve services:

Nativity 18:00, All Saints,

Midnight Mass 23:30, All Hallows.

Christmas Day services:

9:15 All Saints

10:00 All Hallows.

Joint benefice service Sunday 28 December 10:00, All Hallows.

Bible Studies on St Mark's Gospel continue:

Tuesday 6 January 14:00, All Hallows Hall;

and Monday 12 January 19:30, All Saints' Lady Chapel.

Informal Celtic Eucharist Saturday 17 January 9:30, All Saints.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 23-25 October 2026. If interested, please contact Canon John. Deposits 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.

All Saints and All Hallows, Wellingborough
allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk
07525705289 / 01933 278484
office@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk



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