

# **LANCASTER PRIORY**

**St Mary with St George and St John**

**A WELCOMING,  
INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,  
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER**



## **PRIORY EUCHARIST THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**17 December 2017  
at 10.00 am**

*A very warm welcome to all our visitors, especially if you are visiting us for the first time. Please join us for refreshments after the service. The Welcome, including Notices and Banns of Marriage, takes place just before 10.00am and is followed by a short period of silence. For the very young there are books and entertainment packs and a rug with soft toys available in the Refectory.*

President: The Revd Dr Rebecca Aechtner, Assistant Curate

Sermon: The Revd Jill Novell, Associate Priest

Choir: Girls and ATB

Setting: Missa Mariae (Gillthorpe)

Readers: Christine and John Dickinson

Intercessor: Hermione Roff

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Officiant: The Vicar

Services next Sunday 24 December—Advent 4/**CHRISTMAS EVE**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Presiding: The Revd Canon Tim Girling, Hon. Associate Priest

10.00am Priory Eucharist

Presiding: The Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Priest

Sermon: The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest

3.00pm Christingle/Crib Service

11.30 pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity— *The Priory Choir and Orchestra*

**CHRISTMAS DAY—Monday 25 December**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) - Presiding: The Revd Jill Novell

10.00 am Christmas Festival Eucharist - Presiding: The Vicar

**ST JOHN'S DAY—Wednesday 27 December at Lancaster Priory**

12.30 pm Service for St John's Day - Presiding: The Revd Canon Prof John Rodwell

**Junior Church**—There will be no Junior Church until Sunday 7 January.

**OLIVE BRANCH** - Please donate food items in the bin at the back of church. Thank you.

**THE SERVICE SHEET THIS WEEK  
IS SPONSORED BY  
HILARY GREENWOOD IN MEMORY OF A MUCH LOVED FATHER  
WHO DIED 50 YEARS AGO ON 15 DECEMBER 1967  
AND  
JIM GARBETT  
TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF GREAT GRANDSON, LUKE**

**THE WELCOME and Notices** – The Revd Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster  
*Please join in the singing of the hymns and in saying the words in **bold** type.*

**INTROIT:** Hymn to the Virgin—Britten

*We stand at the entry of the ministers to sing the opening*

**HYMN (3)**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,**

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*The priest greets the congregation:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*President:* Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

*A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love, and says*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place.  
As we look at the light of this candle  
we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

**All: Come Lord Jesus, come!**

*The young people are led by the cross to their group sessions*

*The deacon invites us to confess our sins*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

## **THE CHOIR SINGS THE KYRIE**

*Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,  
Lord have mercy upon us.*

## *The priest pronounces the* **WORDS OF ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit for ...*

## **THE FIRST READING**

*A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*

*(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.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **HYMN (161)**

**For Mary, Mother of our Lord,**

*J.R. Peacey (1896-1971)*

## **THE SECOND READING**

*A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (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. For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **THE GOSPEL**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:*

*Cantor:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia , alleluia  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

*Deacon:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*(John 1.6-8,19-28)*

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 baptizing if you are neither the

Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize 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 baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** The Revd Jill Novell, Associate Priest

## **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*These responses may be used*

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*All stand for* **THE PEACE**

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  
**and also with you**

*Deacon:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

**THE OFFERTORY**

*The Gifts are brought to the Altar. The collection is taken as the* **HYMN** (483)

**The Church of God a kingdom is,**  
*Lionel Muirhead 1845-1925*

*The priest prepares the bread and wine. The congregation responds to each petition:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Please remain standing, if you feel able, until after we have recited the Lord's Prayer together and seen the bread broken before us.*

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and *singing*:

**THE CHOIR SINGS THE SANCTUS**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power

of your love made perfect in our human weakness. Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory. On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory. As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight. Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.  
*(each in our own language)*

**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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*Please kneel or sit as*

## THE CHOIR SINGS THE AGNUS DEI

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

*The priest invites the congregation to receive communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed  
are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

## THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*All Christians who are members in good standing of their own denominations are invited  
to receive Holy Communion.*

*If you would prefer to receive a Blessing, please bring this order of service with you.*

*If you require a gluten free wafer please bring a green card which you can find near the  
entrance to the church.*

*During the Communion the choir sings the anthem: Ave Maria—Parsons*

Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum,  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui: Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, mater Dei,  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus  
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen

*and then, still sitting, we sing* **HYMN (21)**

**A great and mighty wonder,**

*Tr. JM Neale 1818-66*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**Amen.**

## HYMN (186)

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;**

*Timothy Dudley-Smith b. 1926*

*The priest gives*

## THE BLESSING

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.

**Amen.**

*Deacon:*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

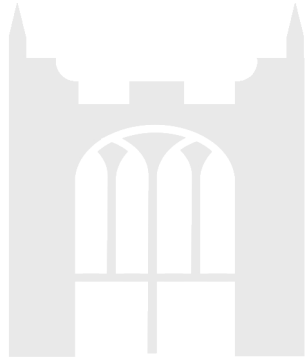
*Organ Voluntary: Toccata—Boëllmann*

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