

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

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



PRIORY EUCHARIST

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**6 December 2020
at 10.00 am**

A very warm welcome to all our visitors, especially if you are visiting us for the first time. There will be many of our church family who will not yet feel able to worship with us in church—though they will continue to join us as we live-stream the service as we have done for the last months.

We are also much constrained in what we are able to do to ensure the safety of all who are present in the Priory today.

It is mandatory to wear face masks in the Priory. You will be guided to your seats by a steward, and we ask you to take your seat in the pew to which you are guided.

Unfortunately, singing is not yet permitted, so there will be no hymns, though we are able to appreciate the organ—and now the choral music. The collection plate will be at the back of Church or you can make an electronic payment, or join our Planned Giving Scheme.

Holy Communion will be given (only in one kind) at the chancel step, please follow the direction of the stewards, and keep social distancing as you line up and return to your seat via the side aisles.

At the end of the service, please wait, as we will be leaving church starting with the back rows first. (unless you wish to stay to the end of the organ voluntary.)

Due to the new restrictions please do not socialise after the service.

We continue to do all we can to ensure the safety of our congregation members, and are grateful for your patience as we work through these challenging times together as the people of God in this place.

President: The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster
Sermon: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding, Hon Associate Priest
Choir Setting: Mass for 3 Voices (Byrd)
Readers: Lois Kirtley, Dawn Cheetham
Intercessor: Peter Hopwood & Hilary Hopwood
Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist
Introit: Prelude on 'Gottes Sohn ist kommen' (Bach)
Offertory: Verse (Tomkins)
Final Voluntary: Prelude on 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland' (Bach)
6.30pm Choral Evensong
Officiant: The Vicar

Services next Sunday 13 December —Advent 3

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Celebrant:
10.00am Priory Eucharist
Presiding:
Sermon:
6.30pm Choral Evensong
Officiant: The Vicar

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

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.

The President says:

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

The candle is lit:

It is our Christ, our Messiah, we watch for:
Christ the Light of the World!

The deacon invites us to confess our sins

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**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

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

THE COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(Isa.40.1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85.8-13

Show us O Lord, your mercy

*I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;*

*Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven.
The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way.*

Show us O Lord, your mercy

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Peter

(2 Peter 3. 8-15a)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

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 Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

(Mark 1.1-8)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

SERMON

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

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
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 priest prepares the bread and wine

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

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

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:

THE CHOIR SINGS THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

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: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 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. **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.**

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 (only the Bread). Please follow directions from the stewards and maintain social distancing as you line up. Holy Communion is received from the priest at the chancel step, as the communion wafer is placed on your palm. 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: **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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen**

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: May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

**THE SERVICE SHEET THIS WEEK
IS SPONSORED BY
JOE BEIGHTON
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS MUM**

The Priory is taking a big hit from a drop in visitor income, venue income, and service collections.

If your income is keeping up, please consider using the barcode to make a donation to the work of the Priory.

We share a great sense of thanksgiving for all that God is inspiring around us in these difficult times.



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