

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

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



PRIORY EUCHARIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**20 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 Anna Walker

Choir Setting: Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina)

Readers: Nigel Stewart, Joop Brouwer

Intercessor: Lois Kirtley

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist

Introit: O Emmanuel (McDowall)

Offertory: Prelude on 'Conditor alme siderum' (Bach)

Final Voluntary: Postlude on 'Helmsley' (Ridout)

6.30pm Nine Lessons

Officiant: The Vicar

Services next Sunday 27 December—St John

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding

10.00am Priory Eucharist

Presiding: The Revd Canon John Roff

Sermon: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

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.**

President: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy.
We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

A child lights the Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy.

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place.

As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Everyone says: **Come Lord Jesus, come!**

The deacon invites us to confess our sins

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.

Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us;

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for ...

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

(2 Sam 7.1-11,16)

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

PSALM 89.1-8

My song shall proclaim your steadfast love, O Lord.

*My song shall be always of the
Loving-kindness of the Lord:
With my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness
Throughout all generations.
I will declare that your love is
Established for ever;
You have set your faithfulness
As firm as the heavens*

*For you said: 'I have made a
Covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
Your seed will I establish for ever
And build up your throne for all generations.'*

*The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
And your faithfulness in the
assembly of the holy ones;
For who among the clouds
Can be compared to the Lord?
Who is like the Lord among the host of heaven?*

*A God feared in the council of the holy ones,
Great and terrible above
All those round him.
Who is like you, Lord God of hosts?
Mighty Lord, your faithfulness
Is all around you.*

My song shall proclaim your steadfast love, O Lord.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

(Romans 16.25-27)

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

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 Luke
Glory to you, O Lord *(Luke 1.26-38)*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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**

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 priest prepares the bread and wine

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed
 on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so,
 Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the
 corners of the earth into your kingdom.
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.

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:

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.*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly
gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they
turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them
you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living
bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for
sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms
on the cross. On the night before he died, he came to supper with his
friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it
to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do
this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

Deacon:

This is the mystery of faith

Christ has died: Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace ... Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Seeking the salvation of the world, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
(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

Christ has gathered his people around the earth to feast at his table.
Come, for this is a table where all are invited, and all are welcome.

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.

Communion the choir sings the anthem: Ava 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*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb: Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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: As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



**THE SERVICE SHEET THIS WEEK
IS SPONSORED BY
NICK WALKER
IN MEMORY OF JOHN WATSON WALKER
CHOIR MEMBER AND LONG TIME SERVANT OF THIS CHURCH**



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Because of the limited capacity in the Priory, we are restricted to a maximum of 100 people in the congregation, seated in the Nave and Regimental Chapel.

Please book early to ensure you have a place as we cannot extend our capacity.

So that as many people as possible can attend please come to just one service of Nine Lessons, and either Midnight Mass or Christmas Festival Eucharist.

ADVENT 4—Sunday 20 December
6.30pm **Nine Lessons & Carols**

CHRISTMAS EVE—Thursday 24 December
11.30pm **Midnight Mass of the Nativity**
The Priory Choir and Orchestra
in music and traditional carols.

CHRISTMAS DAY—Friday 25 December
8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
10.00 am **Christmas Festival Eucharist**

ST JOHN—Sunday 27 December
8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
10.00 am **Said Eucharist**

**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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