

# **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**

**13 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 Keith Brockbank, Hon. Associate Priest

Choir Setting: Mass for Four Voices (Byrd)

Readers: Rod Aveyard, Barbara Gardner

Intercessor: Andrew Nicholson

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist

Introit: Christe Redemptor omnium (Redford/Dupré)

Offertory: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Pattinson/Bach)

Final Voluntary: A Fancy (Byrd)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Officiant: The Vicar

#### Services next Sunday 20 December—Advent 4

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebrant: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness, Hon. Associate Priest

10.00am Priory Eucharist

Presiding: The Vicar

Sermon: The Revd Anna Walker

6.30pm Nine Lessons

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.**

*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 child lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love.*

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 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**

## MAGNIFICAT

***The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.***

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God my saviour;  
He has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.*

*The Almighty has done great things for me  
And holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him,  
From generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm  
And has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
And lifting up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things  
And sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
To remember his promise of mercy.  
The promise made to our ancestors,  
To Abraham and his children for ever.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning  
Is now and shall be for ever. Amen.*

***The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.***

## 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 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. 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**

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**

*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 (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 anthem: Rejoice in the Lord Always (Anon)*  
*Rejoice in the Lord alway: And again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men. The Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.. Amen.*

## **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.**

*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.**



## 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.

Saturday 19 December

6.30pm **Nine Lessons & Carols**

**ADVENT 4**—Sunday 20 December

8.00am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00am **Priory Eucharist**

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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