

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. 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.

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 John Roff
Sermon: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness
Readers: Brian Kirtley, Lois Kirtley,
Intercessor: Lois Kirtley

Services next Sunday 3 January—Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Priory Eucharist

6.30pm Festal Evensong

THE WELCOME and Notices -

*Please join in saying the words in **bold** type. We stand at the entry of the ministers.*

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 deacon invites us to confess our sins

Hear what Saint John says: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

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

Amen.

WE ALL SAY THE GLORIA

Glorify to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

THE COLLECT

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, 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 Book of Exodus

(Exodus 33. 7-11a)

Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

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

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of John

(1 John.1)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

THE GOSPEL

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

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 21.19b-25)

After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.' Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?' This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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

SERMON The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

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

Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.'

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator,

ever-living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the Word before all creation, the Life made manifest, the Light who shines in the darkness. He is the living Bread who has come down from heaven, the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He stands among us in his risen power, and shows us his hands and his side. With joy we worship him as our Lord and our God. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

WE ALL SAY 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: This is the mystery of faith

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

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.**

Please kneel or sit as

WE ALL SAY 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries, ever abide and live within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest gives

THE BLESSING

Grace from the eternal Father be with you;
grace from the Word made flesh be with you;
grace from the Spirit of truth be with you;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Deacon: Our Eucharist is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

**THE SERVICE SHEET THIS WEEK
IS SPONSORED BY
BARBARA BLAND
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HANNAH BLAND
2.9.1909-27.12.1999**

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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