



LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

ALL AGE EUCHARIST

The Third Sunday of Advent

12th December 2021

10.00am

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Advent is the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus, in other words, the period immediately before Christmas. It is the beginning of the Christian year and commences on Advent Sunday. Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. Christians believe that the season of Advent serves as a dual reminder: of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah, as well as the waiting of Christians today for the second coming of Christ.

The restrictions under which our services are being conducted at the moment are part of our responsibility to ensure that all who worship and visit the priory feel safe and valued. These are available on an additional flyer at the back of church. Thank you for your patience.

Today's services (The Third Sunday of Advent):

President and Preacher: The Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders, Vicar of Lancaster

The Reader: Viv McCracken Intercessor: Katie Schad

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist.

Choir: Girls & ATB & Children's Choir

Setting: *Mass of St Cedd* (Nardone)

Voluntary: *Trumpet* Prelude on 'Helmsley' (Ridout)

6.30pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Officiant: Mrs Lois Kirtley, Licensed Lay Minister

Before the service starts, look around at the things in the building. What can you see from your seat? Can you see...

a cross a brass eagle a crown organ pipes a pink candle

The Welcome and Notices

Hymn (10) *Please stand as the procession enter during an organ improvisation.*
We then sing

1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes,

When he comes,

Who will make him welcome?

2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come born as man,
born himself of woman
God divinely human:

Ring, bells, ring,...

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid,
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:

Ring, bells, ring,

4. Journey ends! Where afar-
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

Jesus comes!

Jesus comes!

We will make him welcome!

F Pratt Green b. 1903

The Greeting and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The president says

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.**

Advent Candle Hymn (T.336) *We sing together*

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:

'Keep your vision string and steady,
and be ready for the Lord'

The third candle of the wreath is lit and the president prays

God of John the Baptist, you sent him to prepare people to welcome Jesus, your Son; help us to make room in our lives that we might be ready to welcome him this Christmas

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness *The deacon introduces the confession.*

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The 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 eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Watch how some people move their hands in front of them during this prayer. What shape are they making?

The Collect *The priest says 'let us pray' and silence is kept*

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit

The Reading Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

The Gospel Reading Luke 3.7-18

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation, the cantor sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

The deacon says

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord**

During these words, some people make the sign of the cross with their thumbs on their heads, mouth and chest. This reminds us that the words in the gospel should be in our minds, on our lips and in our hearts.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by

threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Affirmation of Faith *Please stand*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sometimes people light candles when they say prayers. How many lit candles can you count around the church today?

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit. This response is used Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

And at the end.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand*

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**

The deacon says Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn (LP6) *During this hymn a collection will be taken*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

2. That the light of Christ might be seen
today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

3. Teach us Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity

4. Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

5. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity

6. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Stuart Townend

What is happening on the altar during this hymn? Can you see all of the things that we are offering to God with thanks?

*Look out for the person with smoke (this represents our prayers rising to God).
Listen out for the bell ringing too!*

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**

Child Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Adult Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

We sing the Sanctus

**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 thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Child Why do we share this bread and wine?

Adult Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.' After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Child How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Adult Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Agnus Dei *Please sit. All sing*

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 Giving of 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 priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

Whilst we wait quietly for everyone to receive communion or a blessing, have another look around. Look at the stained glass windows. What else can you see?

Communion Anthem *The choir sings Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell)*

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.

Communion Hymn (1 T. 244) *We remain seated*

Creator of the stars of night
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.

2. Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

3. Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the works to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

4. At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow
and things in heaven and earth own,
That thou art Lord and King alone.

5. To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.

6. All praise, Eternal Son to thee,
Whose Advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen

Latin

tr JM Neale 1818-1866

Prayer After Communion

We pray together

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 (LP32) *Please stand.*

1. Lord for the years your love has kept and guided
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided;
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us;
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3. Lord, for our land in this our generation
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord for ourselves; in living pow'r remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

The Blessing and Dismissal

The priest prays

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

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.**

The Deacon says Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen

Today's Booklet is sponsored by...

Sarah Hutchins

To celebrate the 100th birthday of her grandmother,

Isa McFarlane

Acknowledgements

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