



LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

THE EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent):

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

Preacher: The Revd Keith Brockbank, Hon. Associate Priest

The Readers: Pauline Fielding, Miriam Jenkinson

Intercessor: Lois Kirtley

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist & Alex Peters. Choir: Consort

Setting: *Mass for four voices* (Byrd) Voluntary: *Toccata* (Boellmann)

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Officiant: The Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders, Vicar of Lancaster

The Welcome and Notices

Hymn (181ii) *Please stand as the procession enter during an organ improvisation.
We then sing*

1 The Lord whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and praise and magnify,
Who o'er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin's spotless womb contains.

2 And he whose will is ever done
By moon and seas, by stars and sun,
Is borne upon a maiden's breast,
Whom God's foreseeing grace possessed.

3 How blest that Mother, in whose shrine
The very Word of God divine,
The maker of the earth and sky,
Was pleased in fleshly form to lie.

4 Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought,
Blest evermore, who brought to birth
The long-Desired of all the earth.

5 O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Latin , Venantius Fortunatus 530-609
Tr JM Neale 1818-66

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*

Mary's gift beyond all telling
We recall today:
Son of God within her dwelling,
born to show the way.
Who could guess the final story?
--cross and glory; Easter Day!

Young Church and their leaders gather at the Advent Wreath, the candle is lit and the president prays with them before they go to their activities.

God of Mary, you gave her the patience to wait with hope for your birth;
help us to make room in our lives for your joy as we wait for Christmas. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

The deacon says

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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 Kyrie *The choir sings*

Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

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.**

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

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit.

The First Reading Micah 5.2-5a

The Lord says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

The Magnificat



The Al-migh-ty_ has done great things for me and ho-ly is hisname.

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.

The Second Reading Hebrews 10.5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Please stand.

The Gospel Reading Luke 1.39-55 *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**

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Creed *Please stand.*

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 *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 (11) *During this hymn a collection will be taken.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2.O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

3.O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4.O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

5.O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

Latin Advent Antiphons tr. JM Neale
1818-1866

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The priest continues

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of
your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

The deacon says Christ is the bread of life: **When we eat this bread and drink this
cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

The priest continues

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through 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.**

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. The choir sings*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy 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.

Communion Anthem *The choir sings Ave 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

Communion Hymn (465) *We remain seated.*

Thou didst leave thy throne
and thy kingly crown,
when thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
for thy holy nativity:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.*

2. Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
and proclaimed thee of royal degree;
but in lowliest birth
didst thou come to earth,
and in deepest humility:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.*

3. Though the fox found rest,
and the bird its nest
in the shade of the cedar tree;
yet the world found no bed,
for the Saviour's head
in the desert of Galilee:

O come . . .

4. Though thou camest Lord,
with the living word
that should set all thy people free;
yet with treachery
scorn and a crown of thorn
did they bear thee to Calvary:

O come . . .

5. When the heav'ns shall ring,
and the angels sing,
at thy coming to victory,
let thy voice call me home,
saying 'Heaven has room,
there is room at my side for thee;

O come . . .

Emily Elliott 1836-1897
adapted by Michael Forster (b.1946)

Prayer After Communion *The president prays*

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.**

We pray together

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn (185) *Please stand.*

Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting bread.

3.Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

2.Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through.
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

4.Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

George Bourne Timms (1910-1997)

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

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen

Acknowledgements

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