



LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

THE EUCHARIST

with renewal of the Covenant.

2nd January 2022

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.

The covenant service, often celebrated on the first Sunday of the year, is a service in which the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to Israel that "I will be their God and they shall be my people". This offer is then extended beyond Israel to all women and men in Jesus Christ, who also provides the ultimate example of what it is to live in such a relationship with God.

That relationship primarily involves the corporate life of the community of God's people (i.e. Israel; the Body of Christ). It is concerned with individuals within that group. The Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept a relationship that God offer us and then seek to sustain it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us. God's gracious offer to us is therefore simultaneously a challenge. If God is committed to us, are we prepared to accept that as reality and commit ourselves in return to God? Even if we do choose to accept it, how can we manage to live out our commitment adequately, frail and human as we are?

The New Testament suggests that as we join the group of those seeking to follow the way of Jesus, we respond to God's challenge with him and begin to share his relationship with God as Father. Within the group of disciples, this leads to his Spirit bubbling up in us as individuals, encouraging and enabling us to live out our side of the relationship (i.e. "writing God's ways on our hearts" as Jeremiah 31 describes the Covenant).

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.

Happy New Year from everyone at Lancaster Priory.

Today's service (Christmas 2):

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

Preacher: The Revd Michael Fielding, Hon. Associate Minister

The Readers: Malachi Powers

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist. Choir: Occasional Singers

Setting: *Mass of St Cedd* (Nardone)

Please remain seated as the choir enter during organ music.

The Welcome and Notices

Please stand and sing as the Servers and Clergy enter and the altar is censed.

Hymn (20, T.19ii)

1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let every heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.

2 Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.

3 For this how wondrously He wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.

4 She bowed her to the angel's word
Declaring what the Father willed,
And suddenly the promised Lord
That pure and hallowed temple filled.

5 He shrank not from the oxen's stall,
He lay within the manger-bed,
And he whose bounty feedeth all,
At Mary's breast himself was fed.

6 And while the angels in the sky
Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,
the one great Shepherd, was revealed.

7 All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
And praise, blest Spirit, unto thee.
Amen

Latin, Caelius Sedulius c450
Tr John Ellerton 1826-93

The Greeting *The president says*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The Prayers of Penitence

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience. In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

The deacon says

Let us seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us. Let us pray. God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to follow him and afraid to bear the cross: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, and our hesitating witness for Christ: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts, evade our responsibilities and fail to be good stewards of your creation: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good, tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn and selfish in sharing your love with others: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

Silence is kept.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. Make in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit.

The Absolution

The priest says

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from all our sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria *We sing*

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

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ 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.

The First Reading Jeremiah 31.7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 147

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blest your children within you.

He has established peace in your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends forth his command to the earth
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;
who can endure his frost?
He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
He has not dealt so with any other nation;
they do not know his laws. Alleluia.
Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem

The Second Reading Ephesians 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

For the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Hymn (39)

Unto us a boy is born!

King of all creation,

Came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

2. Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all men surpasses.

3. Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
all the little boys he killed
at Beth'lem in his fury.

4. Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

5. Omega and Alpha he!
let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder.

Latin, 15th century

Tr Percy Dearmer 1867-1936

The Gospel Reading John 1.10-18

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation, the cantor sings

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

I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

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 John **Glory to you, O Lord**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Affirmation of Faith *Please stand*

Let us affirm our faith in God

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Renewal of the Covenant

The people remain standing and the priest says

Beloved in Christ, let us again claim for ourselves this covenant which God has made with his people, and take upon us the yoke of Christ.

This means that we are content that he appoint us our place and work, and that he himself be our reward. Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own.

Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done

when I am valued and when I am disregarded;

when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;

when I have all things and when I have nothing.

I willingly offer all that I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

**Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.**

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Silence is kept.

The priest says

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone, but as God's servants and witnesses, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God, hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:

make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble:

deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory:

bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace to make these prayers, and you have promised through Christ our Lord that when two or three agree in his name you will grant what they ask. Answer now your servants' prayers according to their needs; in this world grant that we may truly know you, and in the world to come graciously give us eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand.*

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his 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 (258) *During this hymn a collection will be taken.*

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still, amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

2. O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving power,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

3. O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.
Timothy Dudley-Smith b 1926

Offertory Prayer

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God forever.

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, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because you have redeemed our time and have given us this year of grace to proclaim your favour and celebrate your steadfast love. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *singing*:

All sing

**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.**

The priest continues

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The deacon says Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

The priest continues

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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.

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

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The Agnus Dei *Please sit as we 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

The priest invites the congregation to receive communion.

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

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 Still, still, still (Trad. German, arr.Ledger)*

Still, still, still, Let all the world be still, For Mary lays her son to rest, Sings to him softly at her breast, Still, still, still, Let all the world be still. Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep, The angels all rejoice and sing, Heaven for your delight shall ring, Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby sleep. Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy! The God of love has left his throne, Made this humble world his own, Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!

Prayer After Communion *The president prays*

Eternal God,

whose incarnate Son was given the Name of Saviour:

grant that we who have shared in this sacrament of our salvation

may live out our years in the power of the Name above all other names,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn (297)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesu, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

2. Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day-
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do-
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

3. Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see-
you are Lord.

4. Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.
Patrick Appleford 1925-2018

The Blessing and Dismissal

The priest prays

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
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

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary *Prelude on 'In dir ist Freude' (Bach)*

Please remain standing while the servers, choir and clergy depart.

Today's Booklet is sponsored by...

Beverley Roberts
In memory of Brian Guest Roberts
A much loved Husband and Father.

Acknowledgements

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