



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

All Age Eucharist

Advent 3

7 December 2022

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 Birth of Jesus, in other words, the time of preparation before Christmas. It is the beginning of the Christian year and commences on Advent Sunday.

During this All Age service we involve people of all age. There are resources for children to borrow, if you would like them, in the form of 'busy bags' and 'communion boxes' as well as colouring sheets. These can be found at the back of church.

Throughout this booklet you will find instructions regarding posture (sit and stand), these capture what is normal for our congregation but are not intended to be restrictive for those who may need to sit or indeed not sit for too long.

Notices are given at before the service, please see the notice sheet for more information.

Refreshments are served at the back of church following this service every week. Please join us.

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 Stars animals angels

This service paper is available in large print.

Acknowledgements

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The Gathering

Hymn (NEH 12)

Please stand to sing the hymn during which servers, choir and clergy enter and the altar is censed.

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749

tr: John Chandler 1808-1876

The Greeting

The president says

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

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Do you know...

How many candles are on the Advent Wreath?

How many are lit today?

What colour are the candles?

Why are they different colours?

The children place the symbols of faith on a small table under the pulpit and read the opening sentences as they do every week in Young Church.

The book of Bible readings is opened and placed on the table.

In the beginning was the Word.

God's word is for everyone.

cf John 1.1

A candle is lit.

The true light was coming into the world.

God's light is for everyone.

cf John 1.9

The cross, the sign of Christ is placed on the table.

Jesus was born and died and is risen: forever alive.

God's love is for everyone.

Prayer at the Advent Wreath

The candle is lit by a member of the congregation and another will say a prayer to which all respond

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare, for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Amen.

Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

A minister says

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

We sing



(organ) *mp*
Lord, have mer-cy,
mf
Lord, have mer cy. Christ, have mer-cy, Christ have mer cy.
mp
Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy.

The president gives the absolution

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.

Some people make a sign over themselves when receiving God's forgiveness. What is it?

They make this sign to remind themselves that it is because Jesus loved us so much that we are forgiven by God.

The Collect

The president 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.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 35.1-10

Please sit.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

We stand to sing and face the Gospel procession.

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading, we sing the words in bold print

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.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 11.2-11

A minister says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news

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.

brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’
As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Please sit.

The Creed

Please stand.

We believe in God the Father;
from whom every family in heaven and 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 the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit for the intercessions. These responses may be used

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Maranatha means 'O Lord, come' in Aramaic. Aramaic is the language that Jesus spoke.

Pray for....

- *Someone you love*
- *Someone you can see in church*
- *Someone you saw on the way to church*
- *Someone on the other side of the world*

And at the end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace

God will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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.

And all may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (NEH 295)

*As we sing the hymn, a collection is taken
and the Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar.*

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!*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture —
in the body and the blood —
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

tr: Gerard Moultrie 1829-1885

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says or sings

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:

What is happening at the altar?

What does the priest do with their hands whilst they are praying?

Look out for the plate and the cup.

What happens to the bread?

Moderato $\frac{4}{4}$

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, God of hosts,
 11 hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
 18 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 25 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 31 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.**

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

Silence is kept.

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
forever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

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

Giving of Communion

The president invites the congregation to receive Holy Communion.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Agnus Dei

We sing

Choir

Lamb of God, you take a -

All

way the sin__ of the__ world, have mer- cy__ on us.

Choir

All

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin__ of the__ world, have

Choir

mer - cy__ on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

All

sin__ of the world, grant__ us peace.

Please sit. 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 *View me Lord* (Lloyd)

The choir sings the anthem.

Communion Hymn (LP24)

We remain seated to sing.

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

2. 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Prayer after Communion

The president may say a post-communion prayer

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.

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

Can you see any Christmassy pictures in the windows?

What else can you see?

All say this prayer

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table;
set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

Please stand. The president says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The president uses blesses the congregation.

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.

Hymn (NEH 10)

We turn to face the procession.

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 Sending Out

A minister says

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary *Prelude on 'Personent Hodie'* (Burtonwood)

Please leave quietly during the voluntary as our organists are offering their music as worship and many want to listen and pray through it.