



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

# **The Eucharist**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00, 18 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 Nativity of Jesus, in other words, the period immediately before Christmas. It is the beginning of the Christian year and commences on Advent Sunday. The 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.

*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.

This service paper is available in large print.

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### Acknowledgements

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# The Gathering

## Processional Hymn (NEH186)

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

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;  
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name;  
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might;  
powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word;  
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith b. 1926

## 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.**

*The president introduces the celebration.*

## **Prayer at the Advent Wreath**

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

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**

*Young Church and their leaders gather at the front and the president prays with them before they go to their activities.*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*A minister 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.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
**Amen.**

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

*The president gives 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 life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Collect** *The president says 'Let us pray' and silence is kept.*

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Isaiah 7.10-16

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

## Responsorial Psalm

*We remain seated to sing.*



## Second Reading Romans 1.1-7

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1.18-end

*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.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## **The Sermon**

*Please sit.*

## **The Creed**

*We 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**

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

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*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*

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.

*And all may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **Offertory Hymn** (NEH 7)

Hills of the North, rejoice, river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.

2. Isles of the Southern seas, sing to the listening earth,  
carry on every breeze hope of the world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.

3. Lands of the East, arise, he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes, praise shall his path adorn:  
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.

4. Shores of the utmost West, lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout as you journey home, songs be in every mouth,  
lo, from the North they come, from East and West and South:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the universe be blest.

Editors of English Praise 1975 \* based on Charles E Oakley 1832-1865

## **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:

*The choir sings*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,	Holy, holy, holy,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	Lord God of hosts,
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.	heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in excelsis.	Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

*The president 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 president 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** *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**

*We sit or kneel.*

*The president invites the congregation to receive Holy 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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*The choir sings*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

*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** *Ave Maria* (Parsons)

*The choir sings the anthem.*

## **Communion Hymn** (405)

**Lord of the boundless curves of space  
and time's deep mystery,  
to your creative might we trace  
all nature's energy.**

2 Your mind conceived the galaxy,  
each atom's secret planned,  
and every age of history your purpose,  
Lord, has spanned.

3 Your Spirit gave the living cell  
its hidden, vital force:  
the instincts which all life impel  
derive from you, their source.

4 Science explores your reason's ways,  
and faith can this impart  
that in the face of Christ our gaze  
looks deep within your heart.

5 Christ is your wisdom's perfect word,  
your mercy's crowning deed:  
and in his love our hearts have heard  
your strong compassion plead.

6 Give us to know your truth; but more,  
the strength to do your will;  
until the love our souls adore  
shall all our being fill.

Albert F Bayly (1901-84)

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The president may say a post-communion prayer*

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.**

*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 Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

*Please stand. The president says*

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.**

**Recessional Hymn** (NEH 8 T 128ii) *We turn to face the procession.*

Lift up your heads ye mighty gates,  
Behold the King of glory waits,  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Saviour of the world is here.

2 O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ as ruler is confessed;  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this king in triumph comes.

3 Come then, O Saviour, and abide,  
Our hearts to thee be open wide;  
May all thy inward presence feel,  
To all thy grace and love reveal.

George Weissel 1590-1635 Tr Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

**Dismissal** *A minister says*

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Organ Voluntary** *Toccata* (Boellmann)