



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

The Eucharist

3rd December 2023

Advent Sunday

10am

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.

Acknowledgements

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The Gathering

Processional Hymn NEH11

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

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:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

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:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

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:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

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:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

Latin Advent Antiphons, tr. JM Neale (1818-66)

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 of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.

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.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
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.*

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Gradual Hymn NEH3

We remain seated to sing.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Mark 13.24-37

A minister says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples]: 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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.

Offertory Hymn LP28 *As we sing the hymn, a collection is taken, and the Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar.*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts....

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts....

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts....

5 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts....

Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

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.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

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 *The Call of Wisdom* Todd

Communion Hymn HON528

We remain seated to sing.

We repeat the following text and a cantor sings verses in between.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Prayer after Communion

The president may say a post-communion prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
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 NEH9

We turn to face the procession.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
Alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) and John Cennick (1718-55)

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 *The organist plays some closing music.*