



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

The Eucharist

17th December 2023

Advent 3

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 NEH12

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

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 (1808-76)

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,

you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,

to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

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.*

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.

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,

and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn NEH8

We remain seated to sing.

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) and editors

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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 John 1.6-8, 19-28

A minister 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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 LP44 *As we sing the hymn, a collection is taken, and the Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar.*

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord,
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin,
In each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963), Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Kristyn Getty (b. 1980)

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:

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.

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 *O Radiant Dawn* James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Communion Hymn NEH275

We remain seated to sing.

**Blessed Jesu, Mary's son,
For mankind to earth thou camest,
But the saving battle won,
Now at God's right hand thou reignest:
On thy people pour thy blessing,
Gathered here, thy name confessing.**

2. By this sacramental sign,
Token of thy bitter passion,
Through these gifts of bread and wine
Thine own image in us fashion:
By this food thy grace doth send us
From all ills of soul defend us.

3. In this mystery of grace
Which we celebrate before thee,
Come, O Saviour, show thy face
To the faithful who adore thee:
All our sins by thee forgiven,
Grant us here the joys of heaven.

G. B. Timms (1910-97)

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.

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.

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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 NEH295

We turn to face the procession.

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!

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* Léon Boëllmann (1862-97)