



**Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield**  
*Loved as you are*



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Advent 4**

*Everyone is welcome to St Margaret's. In this service of the Eucharist we remember with thanksgiving the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and his self-giving for the sins of the whole world. As the bread and wine are offered, symbols of that self-giving, so we offer ourselves to God and receive at communion the life of Christ. So nourished, we are enabled to go out into the world to live in the service of God.*

*As we gather before the service, we speak to God. During the service, we let God speak to us. After the service, we speak to each other.*

**THE GATHERING**

**As we gather together**

Ave Maria, Arcadelt,

*arranged Franz Liszt 1811-1886*

**Processional Hymn**

**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!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes: we will make him welcome.***

**God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,  
God divinely human:**

***Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes: we will make him welcome.***

**Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid, till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected.**

***Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes: we will make him welcome.***

**Journey ends: where afar Bethlem 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.***

*Words: Fred Pratt Green Music: Melody from 'Piae Cantiones, 152 Harm: Stephen Dean b. 1948*

## **THE GREETING**

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.**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CROWN**

*The Advent Crown is a symbol of the light of Christ coming into the world  
and into the darkness of our lives.*

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in  
heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

**I am the servant of the Lord.**

**Let it be me according to his word.**

*The fourth candle is lit and this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing*

**Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
Changed for gladness on that Day.**

**Mary's gift, beyond all telling, was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story? –  
Cross and glory; empty tomb'**

*Words: Mark Earey b. 1965 Music: Edwin George Monk 1819-1900*

## THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

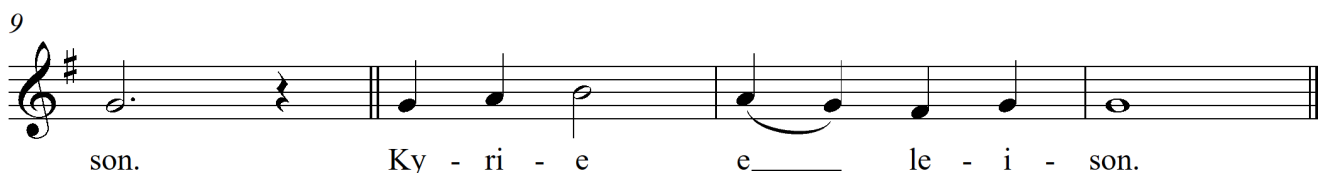
*The prayer is introduced ending with*

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Absolution is given by the priest, please respond at the end with Amen.*

## THE KYRIE



## THE COLLECT

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words, 'Let us pray.'  
The Collect is said, and all respond, Amen.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please sit for the readings*

### **First Reading**

*2 Samuel 7.1-11.16*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 16.25-27*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel*

Chorale: 'My soul glorifies the Lord.' The Magnificat

*Stephen C Horsman b.1961*

### ***The Gospel Reading***

*Luke 1.26-38*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon*

## THE SERMON

*We stand*

### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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

*Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need. After each*

*petition the following response is used:*

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: Ma (quarter note), - (quarter rest), ra (quarter note), - (quarter rest), na (quarter note), - (quarter rest), tha! (quarter note). There is a fermata over the 'na' note. The second part is: Come, (quarter note), Lord, (quarter note), come. (quarter note). The word 'Cantor' is written above the first part, and 'All' is written above the second part.

*and at the end of the prayers:*

Merciful Father,

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

*We stand*

*The priest introduces the sign of Peace.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### The Presentation of the Gifts

*During the Offertory hymn the bread and wine and the collection are brought to the altar and the altar is prepared*

*During the Preparation of the Table*

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!

'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!

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!

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!

*Words: Basque Carol paraphrased: Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924*

*Music: arr. Edgar Pettman 1866-1943*

*At the end of the Blessing of the Gifts we respond*

**Blessed be God forever**

*We sit or stand*

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER


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.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts and at the end we sing*

*All*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of pow-er and might.

*Cantor:* Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. *R*

*Cantor:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *R*

*The priest continues with the prayer which recalls the Last Supper, after the elevation the priest says, 'Great is the mystery of Faith'*

When we eat \_\_\_\_\_ this bread and \_\_\_\_\_ drink \_\_\_\_\_ this cup, we pro -  
6  
claim your death, Lord Je \_\_\_\_\_ sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

*The prayer continues and concludes with the doxology where we respond,*

A - men. A - - - - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come.**

**Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

### ***The Breaking of the Bread***

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.



**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world. Have  
6  
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
10  
way the sins of the world. Grant us peace.

### ***The Giving of 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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his Blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

***Please sit and wait to be directed for Communion.***

### **During the distribution of Communion**

'La Vierge et L'Enfant' from 'La Nativité du Seigneur'

The Virgin and the Infant from 'The Nativity of the Lord'

*Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992*

**Reflection – please join in and sing this if you would like to...**

**Wait for the Lord, his day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.**

*Words: Taizé Community based on Scripture, Music: Jacques Berthier 1923-1994*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The Priest prays the post-communion prayer followed by*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's Body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### NOTICES

#### THE BLESSING

*The priest gives the blessing*

**Amen.**

#### THE DISMISSAL

We go into the world to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love,  
and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### Final Hymn

The musical notation for the Final Hymn consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. The second staff is marked with a '5' at the beginning, indicating a fifth measure rest. The third staff is marked with a '3' at the beginning, indicating a third measure rest. The music concludes with a double bar line.

**People, look east to see at last hopes fulfilled from ages past,  
Now in the promise of the morning, see, a brighter day is dawning,  
Rich with the visions long foretold, prophets' dreams from days of old.**

**God reaffirms the gracious call: words of welcome meant for all,  
Comfort enough for all our sorrows, justice shaping new tomorrows.  
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored, freed to praise and serve the Lord.**

**Now, with the coming of the light, darkest fears are put to flight,  
See how the clouds of gloom are clearing, blown aside by hope's  
appearing.**

**Jesus, the Light of all our days, comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**

**Born of our race, a child so small – hail the promised Lord of all!  
Nailed to a cross for our salvation, he shall rule God's new creation.  
Lift up your eyes, and look again: see he comes in power to reign!**

*Words: Martin Leckebusch b. 1962 Music: French traditional arr: Martin Shaw 1875-1958*

## **Postlude**

**Improvisation on In The Bleak Midwinter *Gustav Holst 1874-1934***

*Stephen C Horsman b. 1961*

*This improvisation is founded on Holst's setting of Christina Rossetti's words. It focusses on Mary and Joseph who both say 'yes' to the will of God, and we are called to follow their example, and say 'yes' to God's will in our lives knowing he will be there to support and help us on the journey through life.*

## Notices

Thank you to Karl and Sarah for organising the outside Christmas tree – Karl worked an extra shift at Furze Firs (<https://www.furzefirs.co.uk/contact>) and they kindly let him choose the tree we have outside. A big thank you goes to Trevor for transporting the tree on his new car roof bars!

*Christine*



This afternoon is the Crib service at 4pm – please do join us and if you come with children please encourage them to come dressed as your favourite nativity character and help in the telling of the nativity story.

*Christine*

Midnight Mass is tonight at 11pm.

Tomorrow's service for Christmas Day will be at 10am.



All collections taken at the Nine Lessons and Carols, Carols round the tree and services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be divided between the Easter Team and Family Support Work (the Diocesan Charity).

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy, blessed and joyful Christmas.

*Christine*

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*The Ordinary: Mass for Advent © Stephen C Horsman 2019*

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**Service next Sunday:**  
*Christmas 1*

**Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) (9.30 am)**  
**Service of the Word (11.00 am)**  
**and on Facebook and the parish website**  
[www.ifieldparish.org](http://www.ifieldparish.org)

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