



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



Sunday 17th December 2023
Advent 3

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

Voluntary

John Bull 1563-1628

Processional Hymn

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
My dear Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace, The triumphs of his grace,
The triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
That bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace, 'tis life and health and peace,
'tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free,
He sets the prisoner free. His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me, His blood availed for me,
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
New life the dead receive, the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe, the humble poor believe,
The humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf, his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ,
Your loosened tongues employ, ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
And leap ye lame, for joy, and leap ye lame, for joy,
And leap ye lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
Assist me to proclaim and spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of his name, the honours of his name,
The honours of his name.**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788 Music: Thomas Jarman 1776-1861

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. As the Advent Crown is lit, we sing*

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the
Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third 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.**

**John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
And be ready for the Lord.'**

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.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given you a kingdom that cannot be
destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen
you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i -
 6 son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i -
 9 son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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

First Reading

Isaiah 61.4, 8-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Chorale: 'Our mouth was filled with laughter, our tongue with shouts of joy. The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice'. *Ps 126*

Stephen C Horsman b.1961

The Gospel Reading *John 1.19-28*

Alleluia, alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God

Alleluia

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.

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:

Ma - ra - na - tha! Come, Lord, come.

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

**Thou didst leave thy royal throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me,
But in Bethlehem's home was found no room for thy holy nativity.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.***

**Heaven's arches rang when angels sang
And proclaimed thee of royal degree,
But in the lowliest birth didst come to earth and in deepest humility.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.***

**Though the fox found rest, and the bird its nest
In the shade of the cedar tree, yet the world found no bed
For the Saviour's head in the desert of Galilee.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.***

**Though thou camest, Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free, yet with treachery, scorn
And a crown of thorn did they bear thee to Calvary.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.***

**When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing
At thy coming to victory, let thy voice call me home,
Saying, 'Heaven has room, there is room at my side for thee.'
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.***

Words: based on Lk 2:7, Emily E Steele Elliot 1836-1897 Music: Timothy R Matthews 1826-1910

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.

5

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.

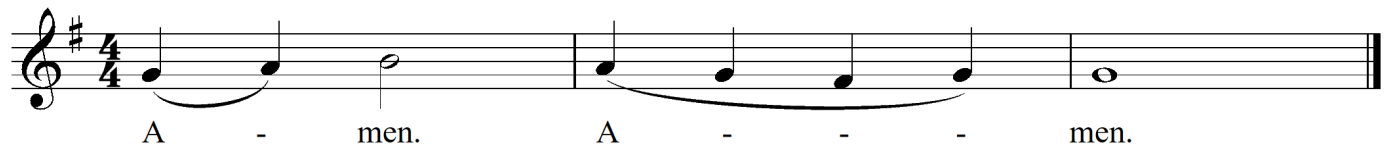
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When we eat_____ this bread and_____ drink_____ this cup, we pro -

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,



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.**

The Giving of Communion

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) has lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you__ take a - way the__ sins__ of the world. Have'. The second system (measures 6-9) has lyrics: 'mer__ cy on us. Lamb of God, you__ take a -'. The third system (measures 10-13) has lyrics: 'way the__ sins__ of the world. Grant us peace.__'. Measure numbers 6 and 10 are written at the start of their respective systems.

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

Chorale Prelude 'Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland' BWV 659

Now Come Saviour of the Gentiles

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Reflection

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

**Rejoice the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore,
Mortals give thanks and sing and triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**His Kingdom cannot fail, he rules over earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788 Music: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

Postlude

Chorale Prelude Gottes Sohn ist Kommen

God's Son is Coming

Johann Gottfried Walther 1684-1748

Johann Gottfried Walther was most well known as the compiler of the Musicalisches Lexicon (Leipzig, 1732), an enormous dictionary of music composition is 'a mathematical science through which an agreeable and correct harmony of the notes is brought to paper in order that it might later be sung or played, thereby appropriately moving the listeners to Godly devotion as well as to please and delight both mind and soul....' he was cousin to Johann Sebastian Bach. As an organ composer, Walther wrote many transcriptions and as a city organist of Weimar wrote exactly 132 organ preludes based on Lutheran chorale melodies. This Chorale Prelude is most apposite for this Advent as we wait for the coming of our Saviour

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



A big thank you goes to all those who put up the outside decorations last Sunday morning in the rain! Thanks, also to those who came yesterday to put up the inside Christmas tree and prepare the church for Christmas.

Christine



Tonight, is our Nine Lessons and Carols service here at 6pm. Please do come and join us and have a joyful sing. Thanks are given to those who have provided some mince pies and mulled wine for our events during this week.

Tomorrow - Monday 18th December - at 4.30pm we are hosting the Mayors Christmas Carol concert here – the Mayors charity this year is the AFVBC the veterans breakfast club - so do please join us if you can.

If you haven't sung enough carols by then we have the Carols round the Tree here on Tuesday 19th December at 5pm too!

Christine

Registered Charity Account no. 1132318

Calamus License No.95 CCL License No. 210222

The Ordinary: Mass for Advent © Stephen C Horsman 2019

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Service next Sunday:
Christmas Eve

Parish Communion (11.00 am)

Crib service (4 pm)

Midnight Mass (11 pm)

and on Facebook and the parish website www.ifieldparish.org
