

St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain



Order of Service for Morning Praise 14 December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

Please take this booklet with you after the service

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Prayer for the week: Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen.

"Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was he a humanised God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man."

C H Spurgeon

Gathering & Welcome

(**Notices** can be found on the last page of this booklet)

*Let us worship God: Father, Son &
Holy Spirit*

Amen

*The Lord be with you
and also with you.*

Unless otherwise noted, words in *italics* are spoken by the service leader, words in ***bold italics*** are spoken by the congregation.

Father God, we have come together here before you, in the name of Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive your holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek forgiveness that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to your Kingdom.

Amen

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn

664 The Saviour will come, resplendent in joy

Prayer of Penitence

Silence is kept in preparation for the prayer of penitence

God of grace, we're sorry. We admit we've messed up in how we think, speak, and act—both the things we've done and the things we should have done. We haven't fully loved you, and we haven't always genuinely cared for our neighbours. Please forgive us for failing. Help us to start afresh, Lord, giving us clean hearts and renewing a right spirit within us, so we can genuinely serve you, through Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayer and in your mercy, forgive us and help us.

Amen.

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Word

Each week, we share Scripture from the Lectionary. The service leader may choose not to use all of this Scripture in the service itself, so be guided by them. But, please take this notice sheet with you and (re)read the Scripture during the week, and the chapters around it for context.

Canticle: Magnificat, The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)

- ¹ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.***
- ² From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.***
- ³ He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.***
- ⁴ He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,***
- ⁵ Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.***
- ⁶ He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.***
- ⁷ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,***
- ⁸ The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.***

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. **Amen***

Hymn

406 Long ago, prophets knew

Readings

Reading - Old Testament - Isaiah 35.1–10

- ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: *This is the word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading - New Testament – James 5.7–10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: *This is the word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 11.2–11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Response to God's Word

Reflection

The Apostles Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Amen

Hymn

282 Hills of the north, rejoice

Prayers

Intercessor: *Lord, in your mercy*

All: *Hear our prayer*

Intercessor: *Merciful father*

All: *Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray, today in the traditional form, with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

***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,
for ever and ever.***

Amen

The Collect

*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

Conclusion

The Grace

Let us say the Grace together

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.***

Amen

Hymn

405 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

The Blessing

*The Lord bless us and keep us,
The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us His peace.*

Amen

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen*



Gaudete Sunday – a joyful pause in Advent

Gaudete Sunday, observed on the third Sunday of Advent in the Christian calendar, marks a shift from the season's penitential tone to one of joyful anticipation. The name "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon of the day: "Rejoice in the Lord always." Traditionally, this Sunday invites believers to celebrate the nearness of Christ's coming, both at Christmas and in the fullness of time.

Liturgically, Gaudete Sunday is symbolized by rose-coloured vestments and candles, contrasting with the usual purple of Advent. This colour signifies joy amid preparation, reminding Christians that hope and gladness permeate the waiting period. Many churches incorporate festive music and decorations to reflect this theme.

Gaudete Sunday encourages a moment of spiritual refreshment, urging the faithful to rejoice in God's promises as they continue their journey toward the celebration of Christ's birth.

Eglantyne Jebb: Champion for Children

Eglantyne Jebb (25 Aug 1876 – 17 December 1928) was a pioneering British humanitarian. Her profound spiritual Christianity, rooted in a sense of being "chosen to do God's work," fuelled her lifelong dedication to social justice.

Outraged by the suffering of children in post-WWI Europe, she co-founded the Save the Children Fund in 1919. Her advocacy led to her drafting the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1923, asserting children's rights to protection, education and care.

Notably, she successfully appealed to Pope Benedict XV for support, securing major funding. The Church of England now commemorates her life and service. Her legacy, guided by faith, lives on through Save the Children's global reach.

'Between Sundays'

In the New Year, we will be running an 8-week course produced by the Bible Society, called **The Bible Course**. The course is accessible for people new to Christianity, ideal as a follow-on from courses like Alpha or for mature Christians wanting to increase their understanding of the Bible or help others to read the Bible more productively. More details of the course can be found here: www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course. Please let Neil Walker know on 07771 861202 if you are interested.



"The VCC's hoping that providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church."

Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 14th December – Carol Service – 3pm
St Peter's Church, Gayton le Wold

Wednesday 17th December – Carol Service – 7pm
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Thursday 18th December – Carol Service – 7pm
St German's Church, Ranby

Friday 19th December – Carol Service – 7pm
St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

Sunday 21st December – Holy Communion – 10am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

The Ministry Team is setting up a **Pastoral Care** team to support our communities. If you feel you have a heart for this, please contact Neil Walker on 07771 861202 and more information will be provided.

The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. You can join the Prayer Circle or you can make a request for prayer (confidential within the Prayer Circle) by contacting Neil Walker on 07771 861202)

Service leaders: George Ward & Neil Walker
Churchwardens: Judith Varley, George Ward
Organist: Kathy Brayshaw

🌐 Asterby Group website: www.asterbygroup.org

📘 www.facebook.com/groups/asterbygroup