



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December 2025



Please pray:

For The Anglican Church of Burundi

For members of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

For those who work to bring peace around the world.

For neighbours in Lloyd Road.

For Elias, Pauline Grimstone, Veronica Holden, Diane Howe, Paul Thompson, Trevor, Robin, Rols Ham-Riche, Sarah, Peter, Michael Miller, Jess.

Recently Departed: Malcolm Kemp

Anniversaries of death: Guilla Baxter, Joyce Budgen, Graham Goodyer, Mary Mileham, Alan Weir, John Swift

Welcome to The Church of the Good Shepherd. This sheet has everything you need to follow what is going on. The writing in the red italics gives instructions. The text in normal type will be spoken by a priest, reader or other member of the congregation. We all join in with the bold type.

Please stand when the bell rings and the altar party enters.

Processional Hymn

NEH 186

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The priest introduces the celebration. We say the Prayer of Preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Penitential Rite

The priest invites us to call to mind our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through
negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your
Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and
grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your
name.**

Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us 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 Kyries

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

NEH 451

We remain standing for the Collect:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so may we be ready to greet him
when he comes as judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word
First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Magnificat (Plainsong with fauxbourdons by Thomas Morley)

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.

- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me *
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things : *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel *
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,* and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* world
without end. Amen.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Emmanuel a name which means 'God is with us.'

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 1:18-end

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Creed

Please stand for the Creed.

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.

The Intercessions

In the intercessions, we make this or another response:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

The Peace

Please remain standing as the celebrant introduces the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the Offertory Hymn, the Gifts of Bread and Wine are presented by the people. A collection is taken. There is also a Card machine at the back of the church. You are welcome to use it at the end of the service if you would like to make any donation.

Offertory Hymn
NEH 185

- 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.**
- 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.**
- 3 Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.**
- 4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.**

G.B. Timms (1910-97)

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Invitation to Prayer is said:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

The priest then prays the Prayer over the Gifts to which we respond:

Amen.

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 we sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

...as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.**

NEH 451

The priest prays the prayer of consecration, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Prayer continues, leading into the doxology, which ends

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated host:

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.

We sing the Agnus Dei:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

NEH 451

Giving of Communion

Behold 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.**

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity, and are used to receiving communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Otherwise, you may like to come forward for a blessing. Please bring this sheet with you to indicate that you would like a blessing.

Choir

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, Basque carol, arr Malcolm Archer

Communion Hymn

NEH 19 ii)

- 1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.
- 2 Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.
- 3 O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.
- 4 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.
- 5 O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

St Ambrose (340-97)

Post Communion

We stand as the priest prays:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray together:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Notices

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The priest asks God's blessing on us:

...and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn
NEH 3

- 1 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 Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Organ Voluntary

Two fugues on the Magnificat, Pachelbel

THIS WEEK

Monday 22 nd <i>O Rex Gentium</i>	
10.15am (Zoom opens 9.45am)	Bible Study
7.30pm	Martlets Fundraising Concert
Wednesday 24 th Christmas Eve	
6.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th Christmas Day	
10.15am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 28 th The Holy Innocents	
8.00am 10.15am	The Eucharist Parish Eucharist

NOTICES

Our **Carol Service** is this evening followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Please spread the word about our **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve at 6pm.

Midnight Mass is at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

There will be no Tea at The Good Shepherd on Tuesdays 23rd and 30th December.

There will be no Eucharist here on New Year's Day.

There is a **fundraising concert** for the Martlets tomorrow evening at 7.30pm here in church. Poster at the back of church with more details, and you can buy tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/showtimeproductions

If you would like a copy of a **Christmas Quiz** to do with friends and family (or on your own!) over Christmas they are £2 each for a paper or digital copy. Money raised is for church funds.

Malcolm Kemp will be received into St Paul's, West Street on Tuesday 13th January at 4.30pm. His Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 14th January at 11.30am.

Save the date for a **Burns Night Supper** on Saturday 24th January at 6.30pm.

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