

## Parish Communion Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle

#### Hymn

##### **O come, O come Emmanuel**

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Refrain

3 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Refrain

4 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Refrain

5 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Refrain

## Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

## Prayer of Preparation

*All* **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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

*All* **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.**

## Absolution

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Kyrie Eleison

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



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

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

## The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

#### 2 Samuel 7:1-16

##### God's Covenant with David

7Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying,

'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. <sup>14</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. <sup>15</sup>But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

## **Romans 16:25-end**

### **Final Doxology**

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*Each reading ends with:*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

### **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
and furnished for so great a guest.  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare



for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace our souls must fade  
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
once more upon thy people shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Spirit bless, for evermore.

*Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676-1749)  
Translated John Chandler (1806-1876)*

## Gospel Reading

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

*All* **Alleluia.**

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

*All* **Gloria to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 1:26-38**

#### **The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am

a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### The Nicene Creed

*All* **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**

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus.  
Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for ...  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
We pray for ...  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.  
We pray for ...  
Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.  
We remember ...  
Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.  
Maranatha:  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.  
Lift us up to meet you,  
that with [N and] all your saints and angels  
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.  
Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### 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

### Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*



- 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 (1707-1788)*

## **The Preparation of the Table**

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory

for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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 in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.  
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he  
comes.**

**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.**



God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Please come to the Chancel steps to receive the bread. Please follow the instructions of the Stewards. We ask you to form an orderly and socially distanced queue up the centre of the Nave and return to your seats using the side aisles.*

*Please extend your hand to receive Holy Communion, with face covering in place. Then lower or unloop the face covering, consume the consecrated bread, and then replace the face covering before moving back to your seat.*

*Only the bread will be administered and then into your hand with care being taken not to touch your hands. If this does happen, both the person distributing and the communicant should sanitise their hands immediately.*

## Post Communion

### Hymn

#### Long ago, prophets knew

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!*  
*When he comes,*  
*when he comes,*  
*who 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.  
*Chorus*

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

Journey ends! Where afar

Beth'lem 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!*

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)  
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## Dismissal and Blessing

With love and compassion,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**  
With judgement and mercy,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**  
In power and glory,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**  
In wisdom and truth,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.  
**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing ...  
*The Dismissal*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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