



St Mary
the Virgin



The Eucharist
Advent Sunday
Sunday 1st December 2024
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church
in the Parish of Witney.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity. Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward to receive a blessing.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and looks ahead to his final coming as judge at the end of time.

The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge us to place our lives in an eternal context. We are reminded that this present time is not all there is, and that we await Christ's return, the destruction of all that is evil, and the advent of true justice and lasting peace:

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty (Charles Wesley).

If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

The Gathering

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the Advent Prose

Choir Drop down, ye heavens from above,
 and let the skies pour down righteousness.

All



A cantor sings a verse and then all repeat the chorus above.

The Procession

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
 'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
 Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
 Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
 Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,
 Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then as our defender
 On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.

Words: Ambrosian, 5th Century

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The service is introduced, and the first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**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.**

Kyrie Eleison

We sing together:

Choir/cantor | All
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

3
Choir/cantor | All
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

5
Choir/cantor | All
Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son. Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God, give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the First Reading, Jeremiah 33.14-16.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

We stand to sing

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
Gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants of one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
Gathered today.

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell
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We sit for the Second Reading, 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand as the choir sings the Gospel Alleluia, and we repeat:



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The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21.25-36

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

**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.

Intercessions

The Intercessor may use the following responses:

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Or

Lord, hear us

All Lord, graciously hear us.

After the prayer for the departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

All and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace

All and rise in glory. Amen.

Most Merciful God

All Accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son

Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

All stand

The Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar.

You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626.

There is also a card reader by the North Door,

The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: HELMSLEY, Trad melody found in John Wesley's
Select Hymns with Tunes Annex (1765)

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation

All Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

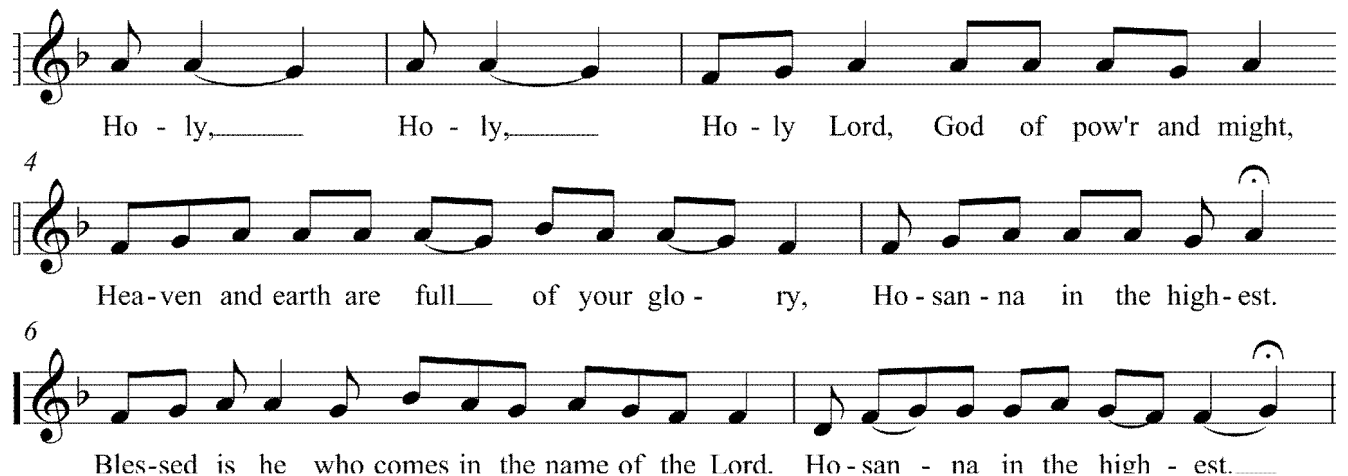
Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All 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 singing:



Ho - ly, _____ Ho - ly, _____ Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

4
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

6
Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Great is the mystery of faith
All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 host

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

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

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.

4

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.

7

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
happy are those who are called to his supper

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

*We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God
and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come
forward and receive the body and blood of Christ, as directed by the
Sidesperson.*

*Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please
carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available
on request.*

The Communion Hymn

Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
Stirs on the earth and trembles in the air;
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of His people's prayer?

Surely He cometh, and a thousand voices
Shout to the saints, and to the deaf and dumb;
Surely He cometh, and the earth rejoices,
Glad in His coming who hath sworn: I come!

This hath He done, and shall we not adore Him?
This shall He do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before Him,
Cast at His feet the burden of our care.

Yea through life, death, through sorrow and through sinning
He shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

Words: Frederic Myers, 1843-1901
Music: HIGHWOOD, RR Terry, 1865-1938

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All **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.

We sit for the notices

The Notices

The Blessing

Please stand for the Blessing

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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

With love and compassion,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

The Recessional Hymn

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.

He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory alleluia! Glory, glory alleluia!
Glory, glory alleluia! His truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps.
They have gilded him an altar in the evening dews and damps.
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps.
His day is marching on.

Glory, glory alleluia! Glory, glory alleluia!
Glory, glory alleluia! His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat.
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgement seat.
O, be swift my soul to answer him, be jubilant my feet.
Our God is marching is on.

Glory, glory alleluia! Glory, glory alleluia!
Glory, glory alleluia! Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make us holy, so he rose to set us free,
Our God is marching on.

Glory, glory alleluia! Glory, glory alleluia!
Glory, glory alleluia! Our God is marching on.

Words and Music: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910

Music: BATTLE HYMN, Attr William Steffe

Laudate 987

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.

Join Us

Please support Saint Mary's Witney.

Your contributions make possible our ministry in liturgy and worship, community outreach, schools, learning, late night cafe, street pastors, visiting nursing homes and hospitals and other pastoral care. For more information please speak to one of the Ministry Team or Wardens.

Saint Mary's is profoundly grateful to the priests, lay leaders, volunteers, DCC members and friends whose unparalleled energy and determination make thousands of annual services, programmes and events possible. Please visit the parish website and twitter feed to stay in touch.



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