



St Mary  
the Virgin



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**The Eucharist**  
Sunday 22nd 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

*We stand to sing*

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.

From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds,  
runs out his course to death and hell,  
returns on God's high throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
the weakness of our mortal state  
with deathless might invigorate.

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.

O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Words: Saint Ambrose, 340–397  
Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

### 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 we light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath:*

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**All Amen.**

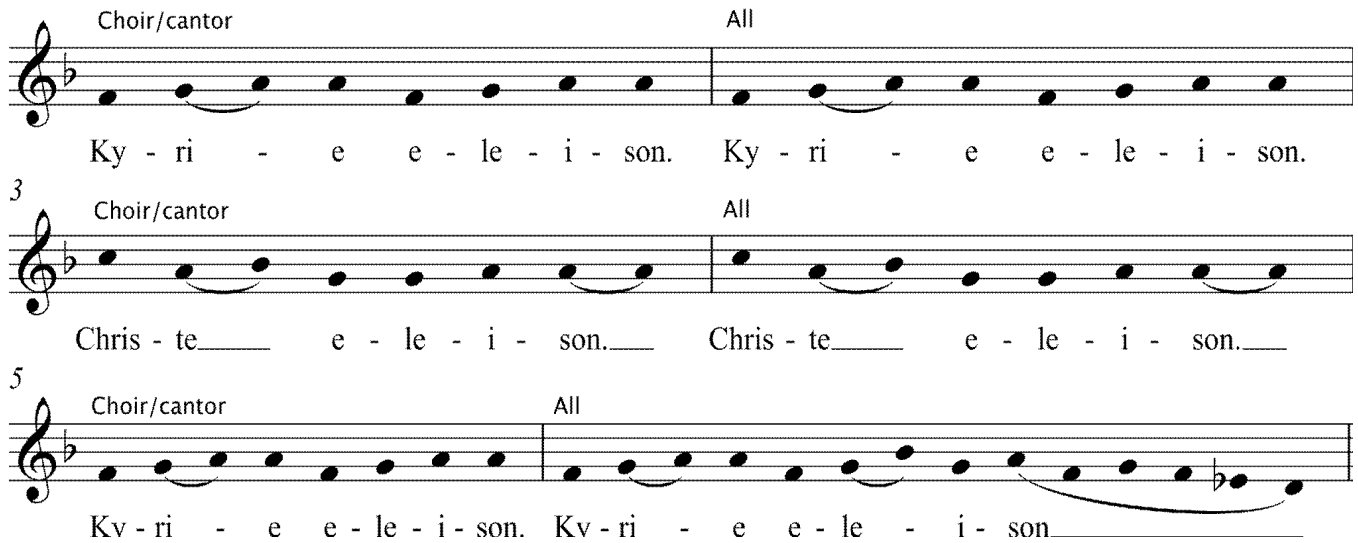
## **Prayers of Penitence**

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:*



The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff is divided into two parts: 'Choir/cantor' and 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son. Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son. Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son.' The first staff starts at measure 1, the second at measure 3, and the third at measure 5. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end of the third staff.

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:

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*We sit for the First Reading, Micah 5.2-5a.*

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gradual

*We stand to sing*

The God whom earth and sea and sky  
adore and laud and magnify,  
whose might they claim, whose love they tell,  
in Mary's body came to dwell.

The God whose will by moon and sun,  
and all things in due course is done,  
is borne upon a maiden's breast  
by fullest heavenly grace possessed.

O mother blest! the chosen shrine  
wherein the Architect divine,  
whose hand contains the earth and sky,  
has come in human form to lie!

Blest in the message Gabriel brought,  
blest by the work the Spirit wrought;  
most blest, to bring to human birth  
the long desired of all the earth.

O Lord, the Virgin-born, to you  
eternal praise and laud are due,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Spirit blest for evermore. Amen.

Words: Venantius Fortunatus, 530-609

Music: BRESLAU

*We sit for the Second Reading, Hebrews 10.5-10.*

*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 1.39-45*

*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.*

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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.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou wisdom from on high,  
and order all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

Women 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.  
All *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

Men O come, thou Rod of Jesse! free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depth of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:  
All *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

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:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

O come, desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid every sad division cease,  
and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Words: Latin Great 'O' Antiphons, (12th-13th C)  
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French Missal

### **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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
or hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

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

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.

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.

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.

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!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024  
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray

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.

**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*

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

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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**

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

## The Recessional Hymn

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:

*Refrain*

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

*Refrain*

Journey ends: where afar  
Bethlem 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!*

Words: F Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: PERSONENT HODIE, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

Let us bless the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.***

# Join Us

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