



The Parish Church
of St Mary the Virgin,
Great Shelford

Charity No: 245456

Parish Communion



Fourth Sunday Of Advent
O Rex Gentium
22 December 2024 10am

THE GATHERING

Please stand to sing

THE OPENING HYMN: 11 O come, O come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way. *Refrain*

3. O come, O Come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law. *Refrain*

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save. *Refrain*

5. O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

6. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall. *Refrain* *Cologne 1710, based on
the ancient Advent Antiphons*

and Editors

THE GREETING

The president says

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

All Amen.

The president greets the people. Please be seated.

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

All and also with you.

THE ADVENT WREATH

three purple and one pink candles are lit

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.

**All Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

As the candles are lit, we sing:

**Marys gift beyond all telling
we recall today.
Son of God within her dwelling
born to show the way.
Who could guess the final story?
-cross and glory: Easter Day**

Tune: Angel Voices

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Please sit or kneel to pray

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.

cf John 1.23

**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.**

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

We stand to sing

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison, eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

Richard Terry

*We remain standing and pray together as the children prepare to leave for
their activities in the Community Room:*

**All Creator God, we thank you for giving us Jesus as our Saviour:
he blessed the children who came to him, and welcomes those
who come to him now.**

Look with love upon these children and protect them with your care. May they grow in wisdom, age and strength in your presence and in the sight of all. We ask this through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Please stand The president introduces a period of silent prayer

As we wait with hope and anticipation for the coming of our Lord,
we ask for peace and mercy for ourselves and the world.

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 we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings

FIRST READING: Micah 5.2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans
of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour
has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of
Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in
the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for
now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of
peace.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Short silence

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Short silence

Please stand to sing

THE GRADUAL HYMN : 186: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

- 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 forevermore.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith b 1926 based on St. Luke 1. 46-55 in New English Bible

GOSPEL READING

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *(Isaiah 40:3-5)*

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1.39–45 46–55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Short silence

THE CREED

Let us stand to affirm our faith.

**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

Please sit or kneel to pray. The president says

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ
let us pray to the Father.

At the end of each prayer

Lord in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

At the end

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The children return and join their families

THE PEACE

Please stand

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
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 : 21: A great and mighty wonder

During the hymn, the gifts of bread and wine and our offerings will be brought to the altar. Please note that there is a jar at the back of Church for our charity collection for today.

- 1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure.**

*Refrain: Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'*

- 2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And Cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain***
- 3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans clap your hands. *Refrain***
- 4. Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em,
The Saviour and the Lord. *Refrain***
- 5. And idol forms shall perish,**

**And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay. Refrain**

Greek, St. Germanus 634-734 Tr J.M.Neale 1818=66 and others

PRAYERS AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All Amen.

Please remain standing for

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

All His spirit is with us.

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,
our 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: *saying*:

Sanctus / Benedictus

**Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
Pleni sunt caeli et terra, gloria, gloria tua,
Hosanna in excelsis, Hosanna in excelsis,
Benedictus, benedictus qui venit in nomine,
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis, hosanna in excelsis,
Hosanna in excelsis, in excelsis.**

Richard Terry

Please sit or kneel

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.

Deacon: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 Mary and 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.

All Amen.

We keep a brief silence

THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now
and at all times.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All we proclaim the Lord's death

until he comes.

Creator of all, we have gathered many grains
and made them into one bread.

We look for your Church to be gathered
from the ends of the earth into the Kingdom.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Agnus Dei

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem, Pacem.**

Richard Terry

If you are used to receiving communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here. Gluten-free bread is available. If, for any reason, you cannot take from the common cup, wafers with wine are available at the left hand side. If you would like to receive a blessing, please hold this booklet.

THE COMMUNION HYMN - 297: Lord Jesus Christ

- 1. Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's Son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day**

Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

3. Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's Son;
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.
4. Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford 1924

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The president says,

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

Together we say the following prayer,

**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.

SUNDAY CLUB FEEDBACK

*Sunday Club are invited to tell us what they have been doing today.
After the notices, please stand to sing*

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN : 37

**1 The great God of heaven is come down to earth,
His mother a Virgin, and sinless his birth;
The Father eternal his Father alone:
He sleeps in the manger; he reigns on the throne:**

Refrain:

**Then let us adore him, and praise his great love:
To save us poor sinners he came from above.**

**2 A Babe on the breast of a Maiden he lies,
Yet sits with the Father on high in the skies;
Before him their faces the seraphim hide,
While Joseph stands waiting, unscared, by his side: [Refrain]**

**3 Lo! here is Emmanuel, here is the Child,
The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;
Whose power and dominion shall ever increase,
The Prince that shall rule o'er a kingdom of peace: [Refrain]**

**4 The Wonderful Counsellor, boundless in might,
The Father's own image, the beam of his light;
Behold him now wearing the likeness of man,
Weak, helpless, and speechless, in measure a span: [Refrain]**

**5 O wonder of wonders, which none can unfold:
The Ancient of days is an hour or two old;
The Maker of all things is made of the earth,
Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth:
[Refrain]**

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

And the blessing ...

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments after the service

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