

WORSHIP - 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 12 DECEMBER 2021

Today we have services in both churches at 10 am, and Evening Prayer at St Matthew's at 6 pm. Peter is leading the Zoom service, and preaching.

In our churches we will light the third of the Advent Candles, and use this prayer. You may like to light a candle.

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Hymn - Come thou long expected Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEE0uWnDGs>

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

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbour 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 – Mass of St Thomas, *David Thorne* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns-1y2agLOs>

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. **Amen.**

The Collect

**O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

New Testament lesson - Philippians 4.4-7 - *this is printed on the blue noticessheet*

Hymn - On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRd-g6i8pmE&t=35s>

Gospel - Luke 3.7-18

Address - *a sermon from Peter is on the website*

The Nicene 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.

Anthem - Adam lay ybounden - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azSVHUBHQYY>

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long,
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen : Deo gracias!

Words: 15th Century

Music: Boris Ord, 1897-1961

Sung by the choir of King's College, Cambridge

Prayers of Intercession

We thank you today Lord for the gift of your son Jesus Christ as a true sign of your love for us. Lord Jesus you came to us as the light of the world, a light that combats all darkness. As we wait and prepare for your coming this Advent, help us we pray to walk in your love, to be your witnesses and to testify to your light. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord in this current time of great darkness, anxiety and uncertainty, we pray for leaders throughout the world and all those in roles of authority. Give them grace and wisdom to promote the wellbeing of their people and to protect the most vulnerable in society. We pray for honesty, for truth and justice. With good decisions from leaders we can have hope for a better life and a better future where your light and glory can shine through and overcome the darkness. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for teachers and for pupils, for social workers, for shop assistants and for owners of small businesses. For the police and our emergency services, for clergy and for all who play vital roles in our daily lives. As we hear that many hospital beds remain full and many people are continuing to die from corona virus - along with other diseases and afflictions - our thoughts also go out to the NHS, the paramedics, the doctors, nurses and surgeons who are working all hours and in adversity to save lives. For the managers who juggle bed availability and resources, for those organise and administering the vaccine. Bless all people who are carrying on your healing, nurturing and giving work Lord and all those for whom they are providing a service. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you Lord for the opportunities that come with each new day. As we look to the new year, hopefully and ultimately into a brighter place, we pray for our communities. Pour your blessings Lord on our families, friends and neighbours, and on our local businesses and tradespeople. Let us remember all the good that has come from these dark days and know in the days to come that the elderly may still need help with shopping and the lonely may still value a thoughtful phone call, and businesses will doubtless more than ever need our support if they are to survive. Therefore, now and in days to come, we pray that we can be good stewards of our communities. Help us to put on your armour of light and do our best to help and support those in need. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, we bring before you Lord all who are sick or in pain. We ask that you bring calm to troubled minds and bodies and inner strength to the fearful so that they may also know your love and your peace in their hearts. We give our thanks for the lives of those who have died, and for those loved ones who survive them we ask that they may feel the warmth and care of your loving arms to strengthen their faith and bring them the courage and support to go forward in their lives.

We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

Hymn - The truth from above - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpsZke3KvVc>

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That He would redeem us by His Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus He in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what He did say.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,
scatter the darkness from before our path,
and make us 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 us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted and weighed down by the things of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of our Saviour. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final music - Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, J.S. Bach, BWV 645 -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJU45riF-D0>

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