

# WORSHIP - 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 19 DECEMBER 2021

*Today we have services in both churches at 10 am, and a Carol Service at St Edmund's at 6 pm. Peter is leading the Zoom service, and preaching.*

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

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. Amen.

Hymn - The holly and the ivy - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_NUIe1ISzQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_NUIe1ISzQ)

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

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. Amen.

New Testament lesson - Micah 5.2-5a - *this is printed on the blue noticesheet*

Hymn - The Angel Gabriel from heaven came - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzC9dxwRddc>

Gospel - Luke 1.39-45

The Magnificat - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU-6AGGAbg>

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.

### Prayers of Intercession

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say with Mary:  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

Your prophet of old foretold a day when a virgin would conceive and bear a son who would be called God-with-us. Help us to look forward to your deliverance and to seek the fulness of your kingdom. Help us to look forward, to have faith, and to believe.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Saviour. We pray for mothers - and fathers - in our world today. Those who are afraid, those for whom Covid means they must face so much alone, those for whom Christmas is such a difficult time. Help us Lord to love and support them, and help us to rejoice. Help every Christian person to be open to your word and obedient to your will.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth, and sang your praise. 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.' Even when this is such a different Christmas, help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

Mary bore a son of David's line, born a king whose reign would never end. Bless all the nations of the world with Christ's gift of peace. We pray for our leaders, for trust, honesty, and wisdom. It feels as if creation is groaning in pain - creation needs Christ's gift of peace.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

The child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature in the home of Mary and Joseph. Strengthen our homes and families, and keep under your protection all whom we love. We pray for those we would love to see this Christmas, for friends who would love to be here worshipping with us, We pray for our young people and ask your blessing on them.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

At the foot of the cross of Christ stood his mother, and from the cross she received his lifeless body in her arms. Give comfort and healing to all who suffer and all who watch the suffering of those they love.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

The apostle John saw a vision of a woman in heaven, robed with the sun. Bring us with all those who have died in the faith of Christ to share the joy of heaven with Mary and all the saints.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you: **Holy is your name.**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have stooped to raise fallen humanity  
by the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
grant that we who have seen your glory

revealed in our human nature,  
and your love made perfect in our weakness,  
may daily be renewed in your image,  
and conformed to the pattern of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 - O little down of Bethlehem - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAU5Xg-o-eM&t=15s>

### **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 - Merry Christmas everyone (yes, I know it's still Advent!) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udcwi2K8oi0>

Peter Barham,  
18 December 2021  
revpeterbarham@btinternet.co.uk