

The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond
Richmond Team Ministry

Sunday 22 December 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass setting: Missa Orbis Factor; Today's welcomer: Geoff

❖ **The Gathering**

Please stand to sing as the procession enters.

Introit 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.**

**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 for evermore.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024, based on St Luke 1.46-55 in the New English Bible NEH 186/CP 362

Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Informal words of welcome

Fourth Advent candle

The fourth Advent Candle is lit and the following prayer is said together.

**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. 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.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

We confess to you our fear and lack of hope
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

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

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. **Amen.**

❖ The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

A reading from the prophesy of Micah (5:2-5a) *read by Andrew*

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent Prose

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

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
fear not for I will save thee:
for I am the Lord thy God, the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Reading

A reading from the letter to the 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

**The Advent of our God
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing haste upon the road
his glorious gift to meet.**

**2 The everlasting Son
scorns not the Virgin's womb;
That we from bondage may be won
he bears a bondsman's doom.**

**3 Daughter of Zion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
let not thy stubborn heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.**

**4 On clouds of dazzling light,
as Judge he comes again,
his scattered people to unite,
with him in heaven to reign.**

**5 Let evil flee away,
ere that great hour shall dawn,
let this old Adam day by day
the new Man all put on.**

**6 Praise to the incarnate Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father and with Spirit One,
to all eternity. Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:39-45)

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us stand to declare our faith in God.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

written and read by Fenella

These or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy (or) Lord, hear us.

hear our prayer.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end

Merciful Father,

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

❖ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

The Peace

Offertory Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." *Gloria!*

2 "For known a blessed Mother thou shall be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
"Most highly favoured lady." *Gloria!*

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

**4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady." *Gloria!***

Basque Carol CP 242

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

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 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Please sit

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

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 nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

If you are a visitor, and receive communion in another church, whether it is in the Church of England or not, please feel welcome to receive communion at this service. If you prefer, please come to receive a blessing instead, and bring this booklet as a sign to the priest.

During the distribution of communion organ music will be played and the choir will sing the anthem Plainsong Magnificat

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. **Amen.**

**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.

Notices of our community life are shared.

❖ **The Dismissal**

Dismissal Hymn

Please stand.

**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.

**2 Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3 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!**

**4 Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
O come quickly!**

Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley 1707-88 NEH 9/CP 31

Blessing

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 with you and all whom you love, this day and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary

Bach Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733

*Please listen to the voluntary and then stay to greet old and new friends over coffee,
which today is prepared by Ros and Jo.*

*There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Church – there is a plate for cash or envelope gifts and a card machine for contactless giving.
Your regular giving makes a real difference!*

You can also make a one-off gift by using this QR code:



***This evening:
6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols***

***Christmas Eve:
3pm Christingle
5pm Christingle
11:30pm Midnight Mass***

***Christmas Day:
8am Holy Communion from the BCP
10am Sung Eucharist for all ages***