



**Richmond  
Team Ministry**



# **Sung Eucharist**

## **11:00am**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Gaudete Sunday**  
**14 December 2025**

*Team Vicar: The Rev'd Joe Moore*

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*Churchwardens: Mary Ricketts & Fiona Morgan*

*Guest Musician: Adam Balkwill*

**The Church of St John the Divine**  
**Richmond Team Ministry**

**St John the Divine • St Matthias • St Mary Magdalene**

**RTM Parish Office**  
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**WELCOME** to St John's this morning on the Second Sunday of Advent or  
Gaudete Sunday!



Gaudete Sunday takes its name from the Latin Gaudete — “Rejoice”. In the midst of Advent’s watchful waiting, its call is unmistakable: joy breaks in before the journey is complete. The rose-coloured candle and vestments speak not of sentimentality, but of hope that is growing stronger, even as the world still knows darkness.

Today’s readings hold together longing and promise. God’s justice is drawing near; the wilderness is beginning to sing; the anxious heart is told to be strong and not to fear. We hear again John the Baptist’s fierce and urgent proclamation, calling us to live with integrity, generosity, and expectation.

Gaudete does not deny the shadows of the season or of our lives. Instead, it teaches us to rejoice within them — because God is already at work among us. As we worship today, we do so as people who wait with hope, repent with honesty, and rejoice with quiet, courageous joy.

***This act of worship is livestreamed on our Facebook page,  
please do ‘follow’ us on Facebook: St John the Divine, Richmond Team  
Ministry.***

***Follow us on Instagram: stjohnsrichmondw9***

*The clergy in the Richmond Team Ministry are always happy to meet for pastoral conversations about faith or to offer spiritual counsel. If you would like to speak with a member of the clergy, do be in touch directly or through the RTM Parish Office.*

## **Prelude**

*Chaconne in G minor*  
Louis Couperin

*Please stand to sing the **Introit Hymn** when the bell rings.*

**I Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day.'**

**2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.**

**3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from  
heaven; let us haste, with tears of  
sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;**

**4 That when next he comes with  
glory, and the world is wrapped in  
fear, with his mercy he may shield  
us, and with words of love draw near.**

**5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.**

EDWARD CASWALL (1814–1878)  
based on *Vox clama ecce intonat*,  
(Latin, 5th or 6th century)  
A&M 38

## **The Gathering**

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and  
the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Penitential Act**

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.

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I  
have failed to do,  
through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-  
Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

*The Kyrie is sung, during which the Priest  
sprinkles the congregation with holy water,  
symbolising the cleansing of the people. You  
are invited to make the sign of the cross when  
sprinkled with holy water.*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive  
us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit for the readings and the psalm.*

### First Reading

*A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (35.1-10).*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

## Psalm 146.4-10

*The Psalm appointed for the day is led by the choir, and the congregation are invited to join in with the sung **Response**.*

### **Response:**

***I will praise the Lord as long as I live***

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth,

the sea and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever; **R**

6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong

and bread to those who hunger.

7 The Lord looses those that are bound;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; **R**

8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous;

9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;

he upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

10 The Lord shall reign for ever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. **R**

### **Second Reading**

*A reading from the letter of James (James 5.7-10).*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand to sing the **Gradual Hymn***

**I Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.**

**3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.**

**4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

**5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.**

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957) A&M 42

*Veni Emmanuel Gospel acclamation:*  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**  
*A seasonal sentence is sung.*  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew (11.2-11).  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.  
**Amen.**

### **Sermon**

*Please sit.*

*Please stand to affirm the faith of the Church.*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and 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 into hell;  
on the third day He rose again from  
the dead; He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
from there 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 life everlasting.  
**Amen.****

## Prayers of Intercession

*Kneel to pray.*

Lord, in your mercy *or*: Lord, hear us.  
**Hear our prayer** *or* **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

### The Peace

*Please stand.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

The peace of Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We greet each other with a sign of peace,*  
*and then*  
*sing the* **Offertory Hymn**

**I People, look east to see at last**  
**hopes fulfilled from ages past:**  
**now in the promise of the morning,**  
**see, a brighter day is dawning,**  
**rich with the visions long foretold,**  
**prophets' dreams from days of old.**

**2 God reaffirms the gracious call:**  
**words of welcome meant for all;**  
**comfort enough for all our sorrows;**  
**justice shaping new tomorrows.**  
**Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,**  
**freed to praise and serve the Lord.**

**3 Now, with the coming of the light,**  
**darkest fears are put to flight;**  
**see how the clouds of gloom are**  
**clearing,**  
**blown aside by hope's appearing.**  
**Jesus, the Light of all our days,**  
**comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**

**4 Born of our race, a child so small —**  
**hail the promised Lord of all!**  
**Nailed to a cross for our salvation,**  
**he shall rule God's new creation.**  
**Lift up your eyes, and look again:**  
**see, he comes in power to reign!**

MARTIN LECKEBUSCH (b. 1962) A&M 52

*We would love you to give financially to the*  
*life and work of the Richmond Team Ministry,*  
*please scan the QR Code below with your*  
*smart device. There are also card readers and*  
*cash plate at the back of church. Thank you!*



## Preparation of the Altar

### The Offertory

*The Altar is prepared and bread and wine are*  
*placed upon it.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have  
received the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human  
hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have  
received the wine we offer you: fruit of  
the vine and work of human hands, it will  
become our spiritual drink.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my  
sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to  
God, the almighty Father.  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at  
your hands for the praise and glory  
of his name, for our good and the  
good of all his holy Church.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up 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.  
For when he humbled himself to come  
among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the  
plan you formed before the foundation of  
the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be  
fulfilled, we now watch for the day when  
Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and

archangels and with all the company of  
heaven to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and singing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power  
and might, Heav'n and earth are full of  
your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he,  
blessed is he, who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.  
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.*  
Christ is the bread of life:

***When we eat this bread and drink this  
cup,  
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until  
you 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  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Divine,  
Matthias, Mary Magdalene, 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.

*The **Great Amen** is sung.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Holy Communion**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be  
healed.**

*Baptised members of all Christian traditions  
are welcome to receive Communion here  
today. Everyone is invited to come to the altar  
rail for a blessing if you do not wish to receive  
Communion.*

*During the distribution of Holy Communion  
the choir sing: **Advent Prose** (plainchant)*

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

**We give you thanks, O Lord, for  
these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his  
face; who is alive and reigns now  
and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Notices**

*Information about our life together is shared.*

### **The Dismissal**

*We stand to sing the **Post Communion  
Hymn***

**I 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?*

**2** 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.

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

**4** 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!*

FRED PRATT GREEN (1903–2000) A&M 75

## **The Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine  
upon you, scatter the darkness from  
Before you path, and make you ready to  
meet him when he comes in glory, and the  
Blessing of God almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and  
remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We remain standing as the procession moves  
to the image of Our Lady.*

## **The Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.  
**And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou among women and blessed  
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
**Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou among women and blessed  
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

And the Word was made flesh.  
**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou among women and blessed  
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
**That we may be made worthy of the promises  
of Christ.**

Let us pray: pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy  
Grace into our hearts, that as we have known the  
incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message  
of an angel, so by his + cross and passion we may be  
brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the  
same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Postlude**

*Jesu Meine Freude*  
Bach

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER OUR WORSHIP!**



**GREAT ORMOND STREET**  
HOSPITAL CHARITY

## Collecting toys for the patients of Great Ormond Street Hospital

For the past two years coming up to Christmas I have collected toys for the children and this year I'd love for us to do this as a church. What to donate? New (not too big), wipeable, toys for children ranging from baby age to teenage years. Teenagers are often forgotten so let's be the ones to not forget! What not to donate? Second hand or homemade toys, toys with button batteries or magnets, craft packs that have plastic googly eyes, balloons, over-sized soft toys, large mechanical or motorised toys, wrapped toys, and toys that aren't wipeable. The deadline for donations is the 14th of December. Please leave all donations at St John's. The toys will be sent (looking at 15th of December) to the following address: Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity office at 40 Bernard Street, London, WC1N1LE

Thank you in advance for your generosity, Yaffa.



I'd like to do this in memory of my late Auntie Janine who passed away at 16 years old on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1990. For many, Christmas is a time of joy and it's so easy to get wrapped up in the season; however, for some it is a very difficult time. Let's use this as an opportunity to acknowledge and brighten up the Christmas's of the less fortunate.

Charity number: 1160024

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP  
AT ST JOHN'S**

**Children's Nativity and Christingle**  
**Sunday 14 December 4.00pm**  
*Followed by a celebration*  
*Supporting The Children's Society*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday 21 December**  
**11.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Christmas Eve**  
**Wednesday 24 December**  
**11.00pm Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day**  
**Thursday 25 December**  
**11.00am Christmas Morning Eucharist**

**Feast of Holy Innocents**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Sung Eucharist 11:00am**

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**4 January 11.00am**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**