

The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond
Richmond Team Ministry

Sunday 14 December 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

Mass setting: Missa Orbis Factor

President: The Rev'd James Hutchings; Today's welcomer: Heather

❖ **The Gathering**

Please stand to sing as the procession enters.

Introit Hymn

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade,
and wither like a flower decayed.**

**4 Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**

**5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749 Tr John Chandler 1808-76 NEH 12

Greeting

**The Lord be with you
and also with you.**

Please take your seats informal words of welcome

Third Advent candle

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

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. 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

God for whom we watch and wait,

you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:

give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice,

and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

❖ The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

A reading from the prophesy of Isaiah (35:1-10) *read by Pat*

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.

Advent Prose

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

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



Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

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

Reading

A reading from the letter of 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.

Gradual Hymn

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**

**2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice, from her heavenly bower,
look down on mortal men.**

**3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess.**

**4 The nations all whom thou hast made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee, Lord,
and glorify thy name.**

**5 For great thou art, and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest God alone.**

John Milton (1608-74) cento Psalms 85, 82, 86 NEH 15/CP 37

Gospel Reading

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.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us stand to declare our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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 Heather

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

The Peace

His judgement is not vengeance, an eye for an eye; his peace is not false, a veil for injustice; he comes to break the spear, to silence the guns and still our warring souls. May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts.

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

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

We turn to others to wish them God's peace.

Please remain standing for the Offertory Hymn during which the altar is prepared. During the hymn, an offering is taken for the work of the church. If you would prefer not to give, or if you give via other means, you can place a card in the basket as a prayer.

Offertory Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Redeem thy captive Israel,

that into exile drear is gone

Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*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.**

**3 O come, O come, Adonai,
who, in thy glorious majesty,
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**7 O Come, Desire of Nations! Show
thy kingly reign on earth below;
thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.**

Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons
Tr TA Lacey 1853-1931 and others NEH 11

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.

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:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

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 Anon. Rejoice in the Lord always.*

*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is at hand.*

*Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto
God with giving of thanks.*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesu. Amen.*

Music: Anon

Words: Philippians 4:4-7

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

**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!**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88 NEH 9

Music: HELMSLEY Melody included in Wesley's *Select Hymns* 1765

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 Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

*Please listen to the voluntary and then stay to greet old and new friends over coffee,
served today by David & Esther*

Next Saturday:

10am – Decorating the church for Christmas

Next Sunday Evening:

6:30pm – Nine Lessons and Carols