

St John the Evangelist  
Carrington and Mapperley Park's  
Parish Church

**Sunday 8 December 2024**

## Community Eucharist on the Second Sunday in Advent



Whoever you are,  
whatever brings you here,  
whatever your story,  
whatever church has meant for you in the past  
there's a place for you here.



***A bell is rung to signify the start of the service and we stand to sing our opening hymn:***

**Come and see the shining hope that Christ's apostle saw;  
on the earth, confusion but in heaven an open door,  
where the living creatures praise the Lamb for evermore:  
Love has the victory for ever!**

***Amen, he comes! to bring his own reward!  
Amen, praise God! for justice now restored;  
kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of the Lord:  
Love has the victory for ever!***

**All the gifts you send us, Lord, are faithful, good and true;  
holiness and righteousness are shown in all you do:  
who can see your greatest Gift and fail to worship you?  
Love has the victory for ever!**

***Amen, he comes!...***

**Power and salvation all belong to God on high!  
So the mighty multitudes of heaven make their cry,  
singing Hallelujah! where the echoes never die:  
Love has the victory for ever**

***Amen, he comes!...***

**Words of gathering and welcome**

A time set apart,  
**a time to come together.**  
A space filled with silence  
**a space filled with song;**  
Hearts seeking solace,  
**Hearts seeking peace.**  
This is the day the Lord has made:  
**let us worship God.**

## Prayers of penitence

*Cantor:* Lord, you came to gather the nations to yourself,  
Come to bring us peace Lord,  
the peace of your Kingdom.

**All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,**

*Cantor:* Lord, you came among us to suffer for our sins.  
Give us your forgiveness  
and grant to us life.

**All: Christe eleison, Christe eleison,  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison,**

*Cantor:* You will come in glory to call us back to life.  
Judge us with your mercy,  
compassion and love.

**All: Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison**

The Priest assures us of God's forgiveness:

Hear now the words of Jesus  
for all who are truly sorry  
and seek to renew their lives:  
your sins are forgiven.  
Go in peace; come and follow. **Amen.**

## **The COLLECT: a prayer on today's theme:**

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer, then prays the prayer for the week:*

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
**Amen**

## **LISTENING TO THE WORD**

### **Stand for the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus - Luke 1.68-79**

Hear the good news of Jesus from the gospel of Luke  
**Open our hearts, Lord, to hear your Word.**

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all  
who hate us.  
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God amongst us,  
for the Word of God within us:  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **REFLECT AND RESPOND led by Denis**

**After Denis has spoken we keep a time of silence to reflect**

## **WE DECLARE OUR FAITH,**

We believe in God  
who loves us and wants us to love each other,  
**This is our God.**

We believe in Jesus  
who cared about people and heard their stories.  
He wanted a world  
where everyone could live together in peace.  
**This is Jesus.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who keeps working with us  
until everything is good and true.  
**This is the Holy Spirit.**

We can be the Church  
which reminds people of God  
because we love each other.  
**This we believe. Amen.**

**PRAYERS** led by Rachel and Brenda.

During the prayers the music group will lead us in singing:

**Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.  
Thus, says the Lord, will the world know My friends.  
Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.**

## THE PEACE

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 the sign of peace.

*We greet one another with a sign of peace and then we sing. During this song a collection is taken and presented as a sign of all we offer to God.*

**How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him  
who brings good news, good news,  
proclaiming peace,  
announcing news of happiness,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns!**

***Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns!***

**You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as one  
shout for your King, your King.  
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:  
your God reigns, your God reigns!**

***Your God reigns...***

**Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,  
we are redeemed, redeemed.  
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:  
your God reigns, your God reigns!**

***Your God reigns...***

**Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.  
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:  
your God reigns, your God reigns!**

*Your God reigns...*

**THE EUCHARIST which means 'thanksgiving'**

**Taking of the Bread and Wine**

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

Jesus of the table,  
you gathered unexpected people  
around hearths of hospitality.  
You stretched out your hand for grapes and bread,  
and these we bring you now.  
May we gather round our tables  
with all kinds of people  
and in knowing them,  
may we more fully know you. Amen.

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**All** The Lord is here.  
**His spirit is with us.**

**All** Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**All** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator,  
loving and faithful, holy and strong.  
You made us  
and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.



You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.  
And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

**All**      **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty.  
who was, and is, and is to come.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

**All**      **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.  
who was, and is, and is to come,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

**Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
glory to the Lord God almighty.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God almighty.  
Who was, and is, and is to come.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.**

*All sit. Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*We say together the prayer Jesus taught us 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.**

## **INVITATION**

*The Priest invites the people to receive communion.*

Compassionate God,  
as you know each star you have created,  
so you know the longings of every heart;  
in your loving mercy bring to your table  
all who are fearful and broken,  
all who are wounded and needy,  
that our hungers may be satisfied  
in the city of your peace. **Amen**

Reverend Tracey will explain how we are to receive bread and wine. After we receive communion and return to our places and Jane will sing.

*Silence is kept.*

*We say thank you for the meal we've just shared:*

Bread of Life,  
you come to us  
whenever we break bread in your name.

**You bring us together,  
friend and stranger,  
young and old,  
rich and poor,  
wise and foolish,  
devout and sceptic,  
to open our eyes to you,  
present in the heart of our community.**

As we journey on,  
may we be open to receive  
the unexpected gift of your love from others  
and may your love overflow in us  
to be shared with all we encounter.

**Send us from this table  
to go out with good news on our lips  
and renewed hope in our hearts,  
in Jesus' name we pray.**

## **NOTICES**

## **FINAL HYMN**

Please stand as you're able as we turn to the back of church while we sing our final hymn:

**Forth in the peace of Christ we go  
Christ to the world with joy we bring  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.**

**King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings  
kingship with him his servants gain  
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,  
Christ's world we serve, to share Christ's reign.**

**Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
the world of time to consecrate,  
the world of sin by grace to heal,  
Christ's world in Christ to recreate.**

**Prophets of Christ, we hear his Word:  
he claim our minds, to search his ways  
he claims our lips, to speak his truth  
he claims our hearts, to sing his praise.**

**We are his Church, he makes us one:  
here is one hearth for all to find  
here is one flock, one Shepherd-King  
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.**

## **THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

With love and compassion, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
With judgement and mercy, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
In power and glory, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All**      **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## NOTICES

**Community Café** takes place this week on Wednesday from 12noon – 1pm here in church. As always, everyone is welcome.

**The Mothers' Union meets this Wednesday** 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in Room 2. The speaker is our own Lou Murray who will be telling us about The Lost Monasteries of Nottinghamshire. Everyone is welcome.

It's unfortunately been necessary to **cancel the Quiet Evening** planned for this Wednesday, sincere apologies for any disappointment this will cause.

**Carrington Carols and Folk for Christmas:** tickets are still on sale for our Folk Concert and Supper on Friday 13 December here in church. For now, booking is online using this link: <https://bit.ly/40NseE6> or on our Facebook page and website. Next week, we'll have paper tickets available for those who would prefer to book that way; suggested donation for tickets is £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s.

**Next Sunday at 6pm we are hosting Rainbow Carols with our Open Table congregation.** Offers of help with welcoming and serving refreshments would be most welcome – do speak to Jo, Maria, Will or John if you can help. Please join us for the (only slightly premature!) start to our Christmas celebrations.

# A poem for Advent

## The Good Old Days

Pity the poor children  
of today, with their calendars  
stuffed with chocolates,

never to know the thrill  
of opening a small cardboard door  
and discovering behind it

a picture of a bell.

*Brian Bilston*

## 3 ideas for Advent reading and reflection:

**Haphazard by Starlight by Janet Morley:** a poem a day from Advent to Epiphany with reflections and prayers.

**Prayers and Poems for Advent and Christmas by the Iona Community,** available to order from [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com). A slim volume of which does what it says on the tin and is small enough to carry with you through the season. It would make a nice gift.

**Do Nothing... Christmas is Coming: An Advent Calendar with a Difference by Stephen Cottrell** (new edition is exactly the same, and is called Let It Slow: An Advent Calendar with a Difference – it's also available on audible) This little book encourages you to take time to pray and reflect every day through advent, it's accessible and down to earth but full of Archbishop Stephen's wisdom and gentleness.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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