



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHORAL EUCHARIST

11TH DECEMBER 2022, 11^{AM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Opening Sentence

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice
and blossom.*

Hymn

**When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptised by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.**

**He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss;
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.**

Tune: Offertorium adapted from M Haydn 1737-1806
Words: F Pratt Green 1903-2000

The minister greets the people

Minister The Lord be with you,
All and also with you.

Welcome

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

We light these Advent Candles to remind us
of those who prepared for the coming of Christ:
the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist,
and the Virgin Mary.

As we remember them, Lord God,
help us to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,
and to open our hearts to receive him.

Advent III

God our Father, you called John the Baptist
to prepare your people for the coming of the Lord.
Help us, who have been baptised into Christ,
to grow strong in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light of the World.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Holly and The Ivy

Choir *The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good.*

*Refrain: The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,**
 to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Prayer of Penitence

Minister *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.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**
 we have sinned against you
 and against our neighbour
 in thought and word and deed,
 through negligence, through weakness,
 through our own deliberate fault.
 We are truly sorry
 and repent of all our sins.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 who died for us,
 forgive us all that is past
 and grant that we may serve you
 in newness of life to the glory of your name.
 Amen.

Kyrie

Missa Papae Marcelli – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Choir

*Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy on us,
Christ have mercy on us,
Lord have mercy on us.

Absolution

Minister 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.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Minister *O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at the 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.*

All **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-10

read by Claire Seaton

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, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb 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 pass over it, and fools shall not err therein. 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.

All

Thanks be to God.

Canticle

Benedicite in F – George Dyson

Choir *O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.*

*O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.*

*O ye heavens; O ye waters that be above the firmament;
O all ye powers of the Lord; O ye sun and moon;
O ye stars of heaven; O ye showers and dew;
O ye winds of God; O ye fire and heat;
O ye winter and summer; O ye dews and frosts;
O ye frost and cold; O ye ice and snow;
O ye nights and days; O ye light and darkness;
O ye lightnings and clouds;
O let the earth bless the Lord;
O ye mountains and hills;
O all ye green things upon the earth;
O ye wells; O ye seas and floods;
O ye whales; and all that move in the waters,
O all ye fowls of the air; O all ye beasts and cattle;
O ye children of men; O let Israel bless the Lord;*

*O ye priests of the Lord, O ye servants of the Lord;
O ye spirits and souls of the righteous;
O ye holy and humble men of heart
O Ananias, Azarias and Misael, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him for ever.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.*

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10

read by Christopher Betterton

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Tune: Cross of Jesus by J Stainer 1840-1901

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88

Gospel Reading

read by the Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings’ houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.’

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Sermon

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

Creed
All

**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

led by Jane Wilkinson

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

The Peace

Minister *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.*

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

Preparation of the Table

Hymn

**The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**

**To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.**

**For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgement and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One.**

Tune: Dundee as set in Ravenscroft's Psalter 1621
Words: Isaiah 9: 2-7, J Morrison 1750-98

Minister Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Minister Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister The Lord be with you,
All and also with you.

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

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

Minister Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Minister It is indeed right,
 it is our duty and our joy,
 at all times and in all places
 to give you thanks and praise,
 holy Father, heavenly King,
 almighty and eternal God,
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*And now we give you thanks
because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death
and to make us inheritors of everlasting life;
that, when he shall come again in power and great triumph
to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence may stand before him.*

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Missa Papae Marcelli – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Choir

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

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

Prayer of Consecration

Minister Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
 through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 and as we follow his example
 and obey his command,
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us his body and his blood;
 Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Minister Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Minister Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Minister Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All 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

Minister We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:

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

Giving of Communion

The minister says this invitation to 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.

This prayer is said before the distribution

All **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies
may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed
through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

The minister and people receive communion.

Anthem

A maiden most gentle – arr. Andrew Carter

Choir *A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.
Ave Maria.*

*How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child,
who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
Ave Maria.*

*The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
the Lord of creation, and Saviour of all.
Ave Maria.*

*Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
and marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.
Ave Maria.*

*Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.
Ave Maria.*

Words: Andrew Carter

Prayers after Communion

The minister leads the post communion prayer for the day

Minister Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Minister *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.*

All Amen.

**All 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.**

Hymn

**Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;
'tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?**

**‘I delivered thee when bound,
and, when wounded, healed thy wound;
sought thee wandering, set thee right,
turned thy darkness into light.**

**‘Can a woman's tender care
cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
yet will I remember thee.**

**‘Mine is an unchanging love,
higher than the heights above,
deeper than the depths beneath,
free and faithful, strong as death.**

**‘Thou shalt see my glory soon,
when the work of grace is done;
partner of my throne shalt be:
say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?’**

**Lord, it is my chief complaint
that my love is weak and faint;
yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!**

Music: St Bees by JB Dykes 1823-76
Words: W Cowper 1731-1800

Blessing

Minister *Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your 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 among you and remain with you always.*

All Amen.

Dismissal

Minister Go in the peace of Christ.

Choir *Thanks be to God.*

Organ Voluntary

Toccata Veni Emmanuel – Andrew Carter

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