



**THE FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

CHORAL EUCHARIST

18TH DECEMBER 2022, 11^{AM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Opening Sentence

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Hymn

**Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.**

Tune: Divinum Mysterium from Piae Cantiones 1582

Words: Latin by Prudentius 348-413

Translation: J M Neale 1818-1866

The minister greets the people

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

Welcome

The Lighting of the Fourth 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 IV

God our Father, the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son,
and though fearful she responded with joy.
Help us heed your call to bring love and healing
into the lives of others.

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 prickle,
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
on Christmas Day in the morn.*

*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

Mass in G minor – Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 *God our redeemer,
 who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
 to be the mother of your Son:
 grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
 so we may be ready to greet him
 when he comes again as our judge;
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.*

All **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 7: 10-16

read by Philip Tebb

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. And he said, Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Psalm 113

Choir *1 Praise the Lord, ye servants :
O praise the Name of the Lord.*

*2 Blessed be the Name of the Lord :
from this time forth for evermore.*

*3 The Lord's Name is praised :
from the rising up of the sun
unto the going down of the same.*

*4 The Lord is high above all heathen :
and his glory above the heavens.*

*5 Who is like unto the Lord our God,
that hath his dwelling so high :
and yet humbleth himself to behold
the things that are in heaven and earth?*

*6 He taketh up the simple out of the dust :
and lifteth the poor out of the mire;*

*7 That he may set him with the princes :
even with the princes of his people.*

*8 He maketh the barren woman to keep house :
and to be a joyful mother of children.*

*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.*

Chant: William Wolstenholme, 1865-1931

Second Reading

Romans 1: 1-7

read by Emily Owen

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn

**For Mary, Mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.**

**Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,
though hard the task assigned,
and by the Holy Ghost conceived
the Saviour of mankind.**

**The busy world had got no space
or time for God on earth;
a cattle manger was the place
where Mary gave him birth.**

**She gave her body as God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain;
she knew the cost of love divine,
when Jesus Christ was slain.**

**Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.**

**Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.**

Tune: St Botolph by G Slater 1896-1979
Words: J R Peacey 1896-1971

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 1: 18-end

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce, *Rector 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 John Forrest

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

**God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of his Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe.**

Tune: Blaenwern by W Rolands 1860–1937
Words: F Green 1903–2000

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.

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

Mass in G minor – Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Angelus ad virginem – arr. David Willcocks

Choir

*Angelus ad virginem
subintrans in conclave,
virginis formidinem Demulcens,
inquit, 'Ave! Ave, regina virginum;
coeli terraeque Dominum
concupies et paries intacta
salutem hominum;
tu porta coeli facta,
medela criminum.'*

*'Quomodo conciperem
quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringere
quod firmamente vovi?'
'Spiritus Sancti gratia
perficiet haec omnia;
ne timeas, sed gaudeas,
secura, quod castimonia
manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.'*

*Ad haec virgo nobilis
respondet inquit ei:
'Ancilla sum humilis
omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
tanti secreti conscio,
consentiens, et cupiens
videre factum quod audio;
parata sum parere,
Dei consilio.'*

The angel came to the virgin,
came secretly into her room,
the virgin's fear calming,
he said, 'Hail, queen of virgins:
you will conceive and bear
the Lord of heaven and earth,
to be the salvation of mankind;
you will be made the gate of
heaven and the cure of sins.'

'How can I conceive, when
I have never known a man?
How can I transgress
vows that I have made?'
'The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall do all of this.
Be not afraid, but rejoice,
secure in the knowledge that
your chastity remains unspoilt
through the power of God.'

To this, the noble virgin,
replying, said to him,
'I am the handmaiden
of almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger,
and bearer of such a secret,
I give my consent, and wish
to see done what I hear,
I am ready to obey
the will of God.'

*Eia mater Domini,
quae pacem reddidisti
angelis et homini,
cum Christum genuisti;
tuum exora filium
ut se nobis propitium
exhibeat, et delet, peccata:
prestans auxilium
vita frui beata
post hoc exilium.*

Hail, Mother of our Lord,
who brought peace back
to angels and men
when you bore Christ!
Pray your son,
that he may show favour to us
and blot away our sins,
giving us help
to enjoy a blessed life
after this exile.

Words: 14th Century Irish Carol

Prayers after Communion

The minister leads the post communion prayer for the day

Minister Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Minister *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.*

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

**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!

**‘For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.’**

Gloria!

**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!

**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!

Words: S Baring-Gould 1834-1924

Music: Basque carol

Arrangement: Michael Higgins b 1981

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

Postlude on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' Op 78 – Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.



St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London. CCLI Licence no 2277036
CCLI Streaming Licence no 954810