THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

CHORAL EUCHARIST

19TH NOVEMBER 2023, 11AM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Opening Sentence

God has destined us not for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Tune: St Denio adapted by J Roberts 1839
Words: W Chalmers Smith 1824-1908 1 Timothy 1: 17

The minister greets the people

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

Welcome

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 *Jesus said, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

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.

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.**

Gloria
Mass in G minor – Ralph Vaughan Williams

Gloria in excelsis Deo,	Glory to God in the highest,
et in terra pax	and on earth peace,
hominibus bonae voluntatis.	good will to all people.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,	We praise you, we bless you,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.	we adore you, we glorify you.
Gratias agimus tibi	We give thanks to you
propter magnam gloriam tuam.	for your great glory.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis	Lord God, heavenly King,
Deus Pater omnipotens.	God, the Father Almighty.
Domine Fili unigenite,	Lord, only-begotten Son,
Jesu Christe,	Jesus Christ,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,	Lord God, Lamb of God,
Filius Patris.	Son of the Father.
Qui tollis	You who take away
peccata mundi,	the sins of the world,
miserere nobis:	have mercy on us:
Qui tollis	You who take away
peccata mundi,	the sins of the world,
suscipe deprecationem nostram:	receive our prayer:
qui sedes	you who are seated
ad dexteram Patris,	at the right hand of the Father,
miserere nobis.	have mercy on us.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus,	For you alone are holy,
tu solus Dominus,	you alone are the Lord,
tu solus altissimus,	you alone are most high,
Jesu Christe,	Jesus Christ,
cum Sancto Spiritu,	with the Holy Spirit,
in gloria Dei Patris.	in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.	Amen.

Collect

Minister *Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed*
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First Reading
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end
read by Bob Bryan

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are thickening upon their lees, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the mighty man cries aloud there.

A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortifi ed cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring distress on men, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their fl esh like dung. Neither

their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealous wrath, all the earth shall be consumed; or a full, yea, sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

Jubilate in C – William Boyce

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
read by Yvonne Eddy

As to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not

sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright:
he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have the right
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away;
he'll not fear what men say;
he'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Tune: Monks Gate. English trad. Adapted by R Vaughan Williams 1872–1958
Words: J Bunyan 1628–88

Gospel Reading

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Matthew.
All *[sung]* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25:14-30
read by The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

Jesus said to his disciples,

"The kingdom of heaven will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over

much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All *[sung]* **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

The Revd Steve Morris, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

Please stand

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

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

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

The Peace

Minister *To crown all things there must be love,*
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Tune: Michael by H Howells 1892-1983
Words: R Bridges 1844-1930
based on the German of J Neander 1650-80

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 *[sung]* **and also with you.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.
All *[sung]* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All *[sung]* **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
that he is the King of glory,
who overcomes the sting of death
and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
He is seated at your right hand in glory
and we believe that he will come to be our judge.

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

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
O taste and see – Ralph Vaughan Williams

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is;
blest is the man that trusteth in Him.

Text: Psalm 34:8

Prayers after Communion
The minister leads the post communion prayer for the day

Minister Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Minister *Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament*
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last to that fullness of life
for which we long;
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

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.

Tune: Cwm Rhondda by J Hughes 1873–1932
Words: Welsh, W Williams 1717–91
Translation: P Williams 1727–96 and others

Blessing and Dismissal

Minister *Christ our King make you faithful*
and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him 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.**

Minister Go in the peace of Christ.
Choir *Thanks be to God.*

Organ Voluntary

Grand Choeur Dialogué – Eugène Gigout

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