

The Parish Church of St Giles
with St Mary's, Pontefract

Faith



The Second Sunday of Advent
10th December 2023

10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for the Second Sunday Of Advent

The setting for today's Mass is Missa de angelis

People of all denominations who are in good standing with their own church are welcome to come and receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar carrying this order of service.

Please let clergy or a churchwarden know at the beginning of the service if you need a gluten-free host.

5 minutes before the service begins, a bell will ring to signal that a period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use this prayer.

**Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.**

**Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.**

**Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.**

Amen

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

Parish Giving

It costs us at least £2,000 per week to carry out our ministry, mission and basic maintenance of this lovely building. One off cash donations can be made in the box in reception just by the entrance door into church. Contactless payments can be made using our free-standing contactless giving machine located in church. It is also possible to donate using our QR code which links to a safe and secure 'Give a little' payment portal which is compliant with GDPR, PCI & PCI-DSS.

1. Open your phone camera 2. Scan the QR code 3. Click the link displayed 4. Donate



The Gathering

Hymn (12)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
whose advent sets Thy people free;
Whom, with the Father, we adore
and Spirit blest for evermore.**

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
trans. John Chandler (1808-1876)

†In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia.

Invitation to confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

Prayer of Penitence

Heavenly Father,
you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



The president says

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
‡forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

The Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3.8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Mark 1.1-8

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed,

‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

A Prayer for the Benefice

Faithful God,

**During this vacancy, fill us with vision and joy
and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship.**

Guard and grow our church as we serve you together.

**Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith,
love one another, care for those in need,
reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.**

**Sustain those in interim leadership,
and bless our next Vicar as he prepares to join us.**

**Ever-living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
may we see your kingdom come here in Pontefract,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Today we pray for Ronnie James Thomas Smith, Evelyn Jane Smith and Frankie Thomas James Smith and their family on the occasion of their celebration of the sacrament of baptism.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Joe; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Janis Gallagher; Mary Sambrooks; Linda Sambrooks; Pat Steele; Brian Ward; Cath Godridge; Rhys Williams; Angela Hyomes; Owen Murray; David Murray; Andrew Leach; Jenny Attwood (Priest)

We pray for those who have recently died:

Elma Mangnall; Sandra Barker.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Michael Barry Plumbley

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

St Giles 3:16 Return.

Advent Preparation

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.



Blessed be God for ever.

The Second Candle of the Advent wreath is lit, and then we say together:

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble:
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas-tide
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn (7)

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies;
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet Him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall His path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth.
Lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in Him the sons of earth be blest.**

Editors of English Praise, based on Charles E. Oakley (1832-65)

© Oxford University Press

Taking of the Bread and Wine

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way of salvation.
So now we watch for the day,
knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

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, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

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

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Giles and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Christ Jesus has gone before us; through him we have confidence to pray:

**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

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei.
Dona nobis pacem.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
grant us peace.*

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The clergy and people receive communion.

Hymn (282)

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me
in the pastures green;
Faithful Shepherd, lead me
where Thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me
in the narrow way;
so, with Thee beside me,
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer
to the heavenly shore;
may my faith grow clearer,
may I love Thee more.**

**Hallow every pleasure,
every gift and pain;
be Thyself my treasure,
though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me
as Thou seest best,
Then let angels bear me
to Thy promised rest.**

Thomas B Pollock (1836-1896)

Choir Anthem

The Advent Prose

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

**Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen**

Notices are given.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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 ...

Amen.

Hymn (3)

**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 Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

The clergy and people depart.

Organ Voluntary

Today's service sheet is sponsored in memory of

Michael Barry Plumbley

In loving memory of a much loved husband

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