

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



The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
17th December 2023
10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for the Third 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 (5)

**Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'**

**Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.**

**So when next he comes with glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.**

**Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the father and the son,
With the co-eternal spirit,
While unending ages run.**

From the Latin Tr. E. Caswell (1814-78)

† 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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.

Philippians 4:4-6

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

My brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds
and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The president says

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
✠forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in 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 Third Sunday of Advent

Let us pray

Silence is kept

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your 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.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion -
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord",
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

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.

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; Margaret Kidger;
Jenny Attwood (Priest).

We pray for those who have recently died:

Sandra Barker.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Bessie Walsh.

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.
Your prophet John the Baptist was
witness to the truth as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.



Blessed be God for ever.

The Third Candle of the advent wreath is lit, and then we say together:

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare, for you were very near:
as Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.**

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy,
that you may be kept safe and blameless
in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23

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 (466)

**Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light.**

**Thou, who didst come to bring
on Thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth Thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

**Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light.**

John Marriott (1780-1825)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

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.
Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please be seated.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your Word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the Law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice and mercy.

In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus & Benedictus

*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.*

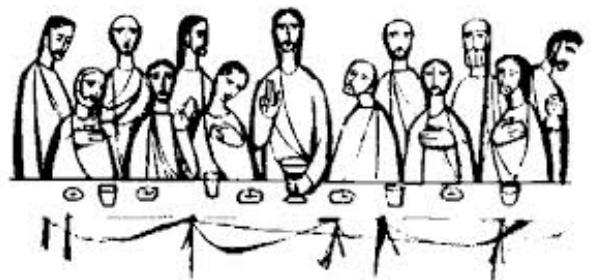
*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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 we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Our Lady, John the Baptist, Giles and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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

As we look for the coming of the kingdom, so we 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

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The clergy and people receive communion.

Organ Voluntary

Hymn (1)

**Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
regard Thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save a ruined race
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**Thou camest, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At Thy great name, exalted now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that Thou art Lord and King alone.**

**To Thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our Judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below,
from every onslaught of the foe.**

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

Latin, 6th;

trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Choir Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord alway - Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

Silence is kept.

**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.**

Amen.

Notices are given.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you,
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore;
for your God comes to save.
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ
today and for ever.**

Amen.

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing ...

Amen.

Hymn (186)

***Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of His word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.***

***Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His Name:
make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.***

***Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.***

***Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word:
firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.***

***Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.***

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) Fr. St Luke 1 46-55

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

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

The clergy and people depart.

Organ Voluntary

Today's Service Sheet Has Been Sponsored
In Loving Memory Of

Roland Haydn Taylor (Priest)

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