

St Swithun's, Hither Green

Eucharist



Advent 3
Gaudete Sunday
13th December 2020

The Gathering

The Greeting

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

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you

Mother Juliet says some words of welcome

Advent Wreath Prayer

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.



Prayer of Preparation

Into our world as into Mary's womb,

come, Lord Jesus!

Into the forgotten places as into the stable,

come, Lord Jesus!

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

into the lives of the powerful, bringing generosity;

into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

into our lives; into our longings; whatever our estate,

come, Lord Jesus!

Blessed are those who wait on the Lord!

Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Prayers of penitence

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.

A Short Silence to reflect

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end*

A reading from the book of 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.

For the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



Gospel Reading *John 1.6-8, 19-28*

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 *Rev Frances*

Affirmation of faith

Let us proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ:

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray

The response to: Come Lord Jesus
is: **Amen. Come Lord Jesus**

*Especially we remember: those who are in need or have asked for our
prayers – Rossy and family, Kevin, Gwen, Marshall, Susan, Cherine,
Karen, Paulette, Maureen and family, Pamela, Neil, Debbie, Elaine and
family, Clinton, Francis, Cynthia, Diane, Harold, Ivy, Sean, Taneisha,
Talabi, Susan, Sydney, Edith, Vanda, Lorna, Ena and Stephen.
Those who have died – Eleshia*

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dawn 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.

The Peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us wave to one another the sign of peace.

Advent Carol

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Prayer over the gifts

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



The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them saying: *Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said: *Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for
the forgiveness of sins: do this in remembrance of me.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.**

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of 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.

*Communion will be brought to you in one kind. Please stay seated in
your place whilst we come to you safely – alternatively a prayer can
be said at a physical distance with you as we move round the church.
Silence is kept.*

Prayer after Communion

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

**All: We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

The Notices

- *The Advent Calendar is outside – we hope you will enjoy it... Thank you Izzy, Jon and family for making it happen.*
- *Our worship services will continue within the guidelines. The church can be opened for private prayer on request.*
- *Please note our proposed Christmas Services:*
 - *20th – HGCC at 10am and carols outside the church at 5pm*
 - *Christmas Eve - Deconstructed Christingle come and see the crib, listen to some carols, and collect your Christingle (any time between 3pm-4pm)*
 - *Midnight Mass – 11.30pm*
 - *Christmas Morning Eucharist – 10am*
- *If you, or anyone you know would like help with delivering Christmas cards or gifts to our church family – Susan Hutton will be able to help – please get in touch with Mother Juliet or Susan directly to arrange for collection.*
- *In addition – ‘Cummin’ Up’ Restaurant are giving out free Christmas Dinners for takeaway on Christmas Day 1pm-5pm – Susan is willing to collect and deliver a dinner to any in our church family who would like it (either roast turkey or jerk chicken and rice) – please let me or Susan know.*
- *Claire will hopefully by now have completed her 10km walk for Shelter – do consider sponsoring her and supporting this important charity <https://thebigwalk.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/clareshelter-fundraising-page>*
- *We will continue to upload the services and the sermons on the website for those who are unable to come in person and the booklet and sermon will be delivered to those who are unable to come to church and do not have technology or have asked to be kept in touch this way.*
- *Happy Birthday all those who have a birthday*



Dismissal and Blessing

The Blessing

Christ the Sun 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.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

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