



THE SUNDAY SHEET
THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24TH DECEMBER 2023

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.
An induction loop is provided.*

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the stewards/sidespersons who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourn in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*J M Neale 1818-1866 tr. from Latin Advent Antiphons
Tune: Veni Emmanuel*

The order of service can be found in the Eucharist Booklet

THE COLLECT

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. **Amen.**

ROMANS 16. 25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

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!

Basque Carol Tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924
Tune: Gabriel's Message

LUKE I. 26-38

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her

old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

After the Sermon please turn to the Eucharist booklet for the Affirmation of Faith

OFFERTORY HYMN

Ye who own the faith of Jesus
sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father
o'er our sin the vict'ry won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
mother of his only Son.

*Hail Mary, hail Mary,
hail Mary, full of Grace.*

Blessèd were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come,
blessèd was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessed was his mother,
she who bore him in her womb.

Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name,
let the Church in her foreshadowed
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's mother sang in gladness
let Christ's people sing the same.

*Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles 1845-1929
Tune: Daily Daily*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Come, O come, Emmanuel,
you are the way, the truth and the life;
you are the true vine and living bread.
Come, Christ our Saviour,
come to the world which waits for you;
who are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet for the Eucharistic Prayer

HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

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.

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

John Raphael Peacey 1896-1971
Tune: St Botolph

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Philip Brooks 1835-1893
Tune: Forest Green

NOTICES

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

The Sunday after Christmas has traditionally been a day when we hold a Mission Area Service. It falls this year of Sunday 31st December and there will be a Mission Area Eucharist at the Parish Church at 10.30am.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 5-7pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

THE WEEK AHEAD

24th Sunday – Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle & Crib Service *at the Parish Church*
7pm Nine Lessons & Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th Monday – Christmas Day

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist
3.30pm Evening Prayer

26th Tuesday – Stephen, Deacon & 1st Martyr

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Eucharist
5pm Evening Prayer

27th Wednesday – John, Apostle & Evangelist

9am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Eucharist
5pm Evening Prayer

28th Thursday – The Innocents

9am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer

29th Friday – Thomas Becket

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)
5pm Evening Prayer

30th Saturday – Tathan, Abbot

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer

**31st Sunday – Christmas 1 (Holy
Family)**

10.30am Mission Area Eucharist *at the
Parish Church*

3.30pm Evening Prayer

TODAY'S READINGS

2 SAMUEL 7. 1-II, 16

Through the prophet Nathan God promises David that his royal house will be established for ever.

PSALM 89. 1-6

ROMANS 16. 25-27

Paul praises God, whose purposes have been revealed first in the prophetic writings and now in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

LUKE 1. 26-38

By the power of God's Holy Spirit the Virgin Mary will bear the long-awaited son of David, whose kingdom will be everlasting.



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