



The Sunday Sheet *for* The 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday 15th December 2024

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

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

Entrance Hymn

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
oppression, injustice and pain;
nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
though many have come in your name –
watching while sanity dies,
touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit we pray;
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

May now your Church rise with power and love,
this glorious gospel proclaim;
in every nation salvation will come
to those who believe in your name.
Help us bring light to this world,
that we might speed your return.

Great celebrations on that final day,
when out from the heavens you come;
darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
and rulers will bow at your throne;

our great commission complete;
then face to face we shall meet.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit we pray;
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
And keep you in the love of Christ.

The Priest gives an introduction to the Eucharist

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
A light no darkness can put out.

The third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Eternal God,
as the darkness beckons closer
and the night-time lingers on
we light a candle
to dispel the darkness of our hearts
and chase away the shadows of our minds
so that he of whom John the Baptist spoke
may find a bright and clear path
and find us ready and willing to welcome him, the Light of the world,
for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Priest calls the people to penitence.

Silence is kept

For the times when we have put off the changes you are calling us to make in our
lives:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the times when we have persuaded ourselves that sins unseen by others do not
matter:

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

For the times when we have preferred the darkness of our wanting to the light of your loving:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
✠ forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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.**

Please Sit

Philippians 4. 4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please Stand

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Graham Endrick

Luke 3. 7-18

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Please Sit

An Affirmation of the Faith.

Please Stand

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

The Intercession

Please Sit

Appropriate responses may be used, for example

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Intercession ends with a suitable collect said by the priest, or the following

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

The Peace

Please Stand

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Offertory Hymn

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

*Our God reigns, Our God reigns,
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.*

You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your King!
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Sion:
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.

Waste places of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted his people:
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God!
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations, he has bared his holy arm:
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.
**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
as your servant John the Baptist
prepared the way for the coming of your Son,
make us your servants ready for his coming
in these holy mysteries;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father,
all-powerful and everliving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who humbled himself to live among us,
taking human flesh,
fulfilling the plan you formed long ago
and opening to us the way to salvation.
We watch and wait for that day
when our Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed,
when justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps,
that when he comes in glory, with healing in his wings
we may inherit the promised salvation in which we dare to hope.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the company of heaven
we proclaim the glory of your name
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love.
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,
Blessed is the one who comes to us
 in your name.
And we lift our hearts before you
 as we give you thanks and praise.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,
Creator of all things, Giver of life.
You formed us in your own image;
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.
We give you thanks
that you sent your Son to share our life;
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,
and you raised him from the dead
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given 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 when he had given thanks
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you,
for 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father,
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.
Proclaiming his victorious death,
rejoicing in his resurrection
and waiting for him to come in glory
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Restore and revive your people,
renew us and all for whom we pray
with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and at the last receive us with all your saints
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

Please Sit

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Communion

The priest breaks the bread
Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The sacrament is administered with these words:

The body of Christ. **Amen.** The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.

If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.

Hymn at the end of Communion

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near! *Sing through 3 times!*

Taize Communiyu

Silence is kept

The Sending Out

Please Stand

Post Communion Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

God of mercy and power,
whose Son rules over all,
grant us so to live in obedience to your will,
that at his appearing
we may be raised to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine on you and scatter the darkness from before you.
And the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

To God be the glory! great things he hath done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the earth hear his voice;
praise the Lord, praise the lord!
let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Fanny Crosby 1820-1915
Tune: To God be the glory*

CCL No: 961722

Notices

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

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 4-5pm 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.

Choir Tour. The Cathedral Choir have been given the amazing opportunity of singing in Finland on a choir tour in May next year. We are raising money to make sure this can happen. For more details, and to donate online, please see the following

link: <https://gofund.me/560aa0db>

If you would like to donate in cash or by cheque, please clearly mark your donations 'Choir Finland' and hand to a member of the cathedral team or pop it in the collection plate or donation box

in the cathedral. If you are able to, please share the Go Fund Me page – from the page on the link above, click 'Share' and you can share on social media or copy the link to send to friends and family. Thank you.

O Come, let us adore him is an Advent Study Group put together by the Bishops of the Church in Wales. We will be running the group at the Parish Church on the following Mondays: 16th, 23rd & 30th December starting at 11am. The sessions will last no longer than one hour. A warm welcome to all!

Christmas Services. A card giving details of all the Christmas Services in the Mission Area is available. Please do take one for yourself and others to pass on to friends and neighbours.

Food4Thought Lunch. This has now finished for a break over Christmas and will start back again on Thursday 16th January 2025.

Carols by 1000 Candles an evening of Christmas Music with the Cathedral Choir on Friday 20th December. Admission £10 on the door. Children free. Proceeds to the Choir Finland Tour in 2025.

Funeral. The funeral of the late David Vaughan Griffith will take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday 17th December at 11am. Please remember Pat and the family in your prayers.

The Week Ahead

16th Monday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

11am 'O Come let us adore him'

Advent Study Group *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

17th Tuesday – O Wisdom!

9am Morning Prayer

11am Funeral

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

18th Wednesday – O Adonai!

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

2pm Mothers Union *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Richard & Adam Concert

9.30am Richard & Adam Concert

19th Thursday – O Root of Jesse!

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*

12noon Funeral

5pm Evening Prayer

20th Friday – O Key of David!

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

11am Funeral *at the Parish Church*

7pm Carols by 1000 Candles – and evening of festive music with the Cathedral Choir.

21st Saturday – O Dayspring!

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

22nd Sunday – Advent 4

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols *at St Mary's Cefn*

23rd Monday – O Emmanuel!

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

11am 'O Come let us adore him'

Advent Study Group *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

24th Tuesday – CHRISTMAS EVE

9am Morning Prayer

4pm Christingle & Crib Service *at the Parish Church*

7pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

11.30pm The Midnight Mass

25th Wednesday – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at St Mary's Cefn*

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

Contact:

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Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3. 14-20

The prophet calls God's people to rejoice: God himself will come down to save them from their troubles and oppressors. His love and power will dispel all fear and shame as he brings his people home.

Psalm 146. 5-10

Philippians 4. 4-7

In the light of the Lord's imminent return, Paul exhorts Christians to live lives characterised by rejoicing, thanksgiving and prayer-filled dependence. In so doing they will be enfolded in God's peace.

Luke 3. 7-18

John the Baptist urges the crowds to repent. Christ is coming among them bringing judgement and salvation. They can get ready to receive him by living honest, humble and generous lives now.

