

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

*O Sapientia*

*O Adonai*

*O Radix Jesse*

*O Clavis David*

*O Oriens*

*O Rex Gentium*

*O Emmanuel*

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## **Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

There will be some changes to our usual way of worship. It may feel a bit like it does at St Mary's during Lent. There won't be any hymns during the service. Later on we might be able to have a cantor singing some of the liturgy.

St Mary's is a place of beauty and peace. It was built to the Glory of God, and to serve the community. It is the parish church of Walkley, part of the Church of England, and has a weekly pattern of "traditional" worship, including hymns, prayer and Holy Communion. St Mary's preserves much of the history of Walkley and is a focus for community events. It is an excellent venue for concerts and exhibitions, and a resource for local schools. We are working to get the church open and available for anyone to enjoy throughout the day. The community hall adjoining the church provides disabled access and is available for hire.

### **Evening Prayer**

Beginning with the early church, Christians have gathered at different times of day to pray. This evolved over time to a pattern common in monasteries of seven different services throughout day and night, to which non-monks were welcome. At the Reformation, England lost this monastic tradition. With the production of the Book of Common Prayer (current version from 1662) the service of Evensong was created by fusing Vespers (evening prayer) with Compline (night prayer).

During the 20th century the church looked to renew its worship and incorporate contemporary language culminating, in the Church of England, with the publication of Common Worship in the early 2000s. This separated out Evening Prayer and Compline as two distinct services, appropriate for different times of day. This service is a product of the history above and draws on biblical texts, ancient prayers and contemporary preaching and intercession.

### **Advent**

During Advent we gather together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

We meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom. We hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home, how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

## The Preparation

*Minister* O God, make speed to save us.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Minister* Reveal among us the light of your presence

*All* **that we may behold your power and glory.**

*Minister* Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

creator of light and darkness,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

As evening falls, you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.

May your word be a lantern to our feet

and a light upon our path

that we may behold your coming among us.

Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness

and free our tongues to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Minister* That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

*Minister* As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,

so may your mercy come down upon us

to cleanse our hearts

and set us free to sing your praise

now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## The Confession and Absolution

*Minister* 'The axe is laid at the root of the trees;  
every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.'  
But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

Matthew 3.10

*We keep a time of silence.*

*Minister* Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister* Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Minister* Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister* May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Word of God

**The Psalm:** Psalm 85. 1 - 2, 8 - end

*We sit as we say the psalm together.*

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people ♦  
and covered all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦  
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦  
and direct his steps in the way.

*We stand.*

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **The First Reading: Ezekiel 34. 11 - 16**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## **The Canticle: A Song of the Spirit**

*All* **Surely I am coming soon.  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

- 1 'Behold, I am coming soon', says the Lord,  
'and bringing my reward with me, ♦  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.
- 2 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, ♦  
and covered all their sins.
- 3 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life, ♦  
and may enter into the city through the gates.
- 4 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, ♦  
with this testimony for all the churches.
- 5 'I am the root and the offspring of David, ♦  
I am the bright morning star.'
- 6 'Come!' say the Spirit and the Bride; ♦  
'Come!' let each hearer reply.
- 7 Come forward, you who are thirsty, ♦  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Revelation 22.12-14, 16, 17

*We stand.*

*All* **To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦  
be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All* **Pour down, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

*We sit.*

## **The Second Reading: Matthew 5. 17 - 20**

A reading from the Gospel according Matthew.

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*



## **The Gospel Cantic: The Magnificat – The Song of Mary**

*All* **Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,  
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦  
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦  
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦  
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦  
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46–55

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*All* **Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come,  
the one whom we await with longing hearts.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Minister* Let us declare our faith in God.

*All* **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.**

*We sit.*

## **The Sermon**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*We remain seated or kneel.*

*Intercessor* Lord, have mercy,  
*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*The prayers conclude with the following:*

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

## The Lord's Prayer

*Minister* Awaiting his coming in glory,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*We stand.*

## The Conclusion

*All*        **Lighten our darkness,  
Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Minister*    May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

*All*        **Amen.**

*Minister*    May the Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

*All*        **Amen.**

*Minister*    Let us bless the Lord.

*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

***Please take this order of service away with you!***

*Beginning with the back rows of pews and chairs, please leave using the church porch and move away as quickly as possible to help others to leave too. If you use the ramp, please use the hall door as usual, and move away as quickly as you can.*

*We are sorry that there won't be any refreshments after the service and that you won't be able to stay to chat to each other in person. We will still be holding our online coffee sessions, though, and we'd love to see you online if you'd like to join us.*