

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 3rd Sunday of Advent

13th December 2020

Evening Prayer

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 A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

John 1.23

We keep a time of silence.

Minister God, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:
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 126

We sit as we say the psalm together.

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ♦
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter ♦
and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, ♦
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, ♦
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, ♦
as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears ♦
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, ♦
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

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: Isaiah 40. 1 - 8

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

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: Mark 1. 1 - 11

A reading from the Gospel according Matthew.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

We stand.

The Gospel Canticle: 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 let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, 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.