**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 First Sunday of Advent**

**28th November 2021**

**Welcome to St Mary’s Church, Walkley**

At the moment we are not quite back to our usual way of worship. You will notice that:

* Half the seating is still arranged for people who want to keep physical distance.
* We will be singing only a little – at the beginning and towards the end of the service, whilst wearing face-coverings.
* There won’t be a Gospel procession. Instead, the president (the priest leading the

service) will read the Gospel from the front of the altar.

* We won’t be able to share the Peace in the usual way. Instead, we will stay in our

places and wave, nod or bow to each other.

**The Gathering**

*President* Jesus said, ‘Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.’

*All*  **Amen.** **Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*President* People of God: awake!

The day is coming soon

when you shall see God face to face.

Remember the ways and the works of God.

God calls you out of darkness

to walk in the light of his coming.

You are God’s children.

*All*  **Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ**

**today and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*The first candle is lit.*

*President* Reveal among us the light of your presence

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

*We sit to sing a hymn, please remain masked.*

**The Confession and Absolution**

*President* 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.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*President* Heavenly Father,

you have created a universe of light:

forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

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

*President*Lord Jesus,

you are the light of the world:

cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

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

*President* Holy Spirit,

you give us light in our hearts:

renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

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

*President* 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 Collect**

*President* Let us pray:

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns,

turn us from the darkness of sin to the

light of holiness,

that we may be ready to meet you

in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

**The Reading:** Jeremiah 33. 14 - 16

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*We remain seated as music played.*

*We stand for the Gospel.*

**The Gospel Reading:** Luke 21. 25 - 36

*President* Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, ‘Stand up and raise your heads,

because your redemption is drawing near.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*President* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

*President* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**The Sermon**

*We stand.*

**The Creed**

*President* Let us declare our faith in God,

*All*  **We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is,**

**seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

**The Prayers of Intercession**

*Intercessor* Maranatha:

*All* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Or another response is used.*

*Intercessor* Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;

give new courage to your people,

who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom

on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We stand.*

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

*President* In the tender mercy of our God,

the dayspring 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.

*Luke 1.78,79*

*President* The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*President* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We remain in our seats, sharing the peace through waves to those around us as the altar is prepared.*

**The Prayer over the gifts**

*President* As this bread was scattered

and then gathered and made one,

so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

*All* **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

*President* Wisdom has built her a house;

she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

*All* **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*President* The Lord is here.

*All*  **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory

for ever praising you and saying:

*All***Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Accept our praises, heavenly Father,

through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,

and as we follow his example and obey his command,

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you 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 gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,

we remember his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross;

we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup

we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

*President* Great is the mystery of faith:

*All***Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*President* Accept through him, our great high priest,

this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,

and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,

renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love

and unite us in the body of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty,

in songs of everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*President* 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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* Every time we eat this bread

and drink this cup,

*All* **we proclaim the Lord’s death**

**until he comes.**

**The Giving of Communion**

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front. Sanitising stations are available at the front of church to use before receiving.*

*During the distribution music is played.*

**The Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

O Lord our God,

make us watchful and keep us faithful

as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;

that, when he shall appear,

he may not find us sleeping in sin

but active in his service

and joyful in his praise;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Father of all,**

**we give you thanks and praise,**

**that when we were still far off**

**you met us in your Son and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,**

**gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life;**

**we who drink his cup bring life to others;**

**we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Amen.**

*We stand.*

**The Blessing**

*President* May God the Father, judge all-merciful,

make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May God the Son, coming among us in power,

reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,

joyful in hope and constant in love.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit to sing a hymn, please remain masked.*

**The Dismissal**

*President* As we await our coming Saviour,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

***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.*

*Coffee and tea are back! If you would like to stay for coffee and a*

*chat, please move to the hall, find a place at a table and sit down.*

*You will be served at your table.*

*Please be mindful of those who prefer to keep their distance from*

*others at the moment.*

**More information:** **stmaryswalkley.co.uk/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/**