

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

5th December 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 whilst wearing face-coverings, though with more music than we have done previously.

The Preparation

We remain seated as the cantor sings.

Minister In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As 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.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness.

So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over. And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

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.**

Minister And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting,
now and at all times.

All **Amen.**

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 209.

The Psalm: 103. 8 - 17

We remain seated and say together the psalm.

All

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ♦
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**He will not always accuse us, ♦
neither will he keep his anger for ever.**

**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ♦
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

**For as the heavens are high above the earth, ♦
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.**

**As far as the east is from the west, ♦
so far has he set our sins from us.**

**As a father has compassion on his children, ♦
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.**

**For he knows of what we are made; ♦
he remembers that we are but dust.**

**Our days are but as grass; ♦
we flourish as a flower of the field;**

**For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, ♦
and its place shall know it no more.**

**But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him, ♦
and his righteousness on children's children;**

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 and wearing masks we sing hymn 478.

The First Reading: Exodus 3. 1 - 6

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

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

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 53.

The Second Reading: Isaiah 40. 1 - 11

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.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 318.

The Second Reading: Isaiah 52. 7 - 10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 226.

The Sermon

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 172.

The Prayers

We remain seated or kneel.

Intercessor Maranatha:

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

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.**

The prayers conclude with the following:

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.**

The Collect

Minister 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 remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 422.

We stand.

The Blessing

Minister May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

All **Amen.**

Minister May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

All **Amen.**

Minister May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

All **Amen.**

Minister And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

Minister As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

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.

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/