

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

3rd Sunday of Advent

12th 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.

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.

We heard last week of God's call to Moses from the burning bush as he walked on holy ground in the wilderness.

We heard of God's promised comfort to his people where every mountain and hill will be made low and the uneven ground will become level.

We heard of the joy brought by messengers proclaiming peace and the return of the Lord to Zion.

As we 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.

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 401.

The Psalm: Psalm 147. 1 - 6

We remain seated and say together the psalm.

All **Alleluia. How good it is to make music for our God, ♦
how joyful to honour him with praise.**

**The Lord builds up Jerusalem ♦
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.**

**He heals the brokenhearted ♦
and binds up all their wounds.**

**He counts the number of the stars ♦
and calls them all by their names.**

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power; ♦
his wisdom is beyond all telling.**

**The Lord lifts up the poor, ♦
but casts down the wicked to the ground.**

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 130.

The First Reading: Malachi 3. 1 - 5

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Reader
All

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 432.

The Second Reading: Isaiah 61. 1 - 3, 11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 198.

The Third Reading: Philippians 4. 4 - 7

A reading from the Letter 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.

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

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 250.

The Sermon

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing from Common Ground hymn 15.

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 528.

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.**

We remain seated as the cantor sings.

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/