

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 1st Sunday of Advent

29th November 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 Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

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

Minister God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

All **Amen.**

The first candle is lit.

Minister Reveal among us the light of your presence
All **that we may behold your power and glory.**

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 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.

Minister Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Amen.**

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 80. 1 – 8,

We sit as we say the psalm together.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength, ♦
and come to our salvation.
- 4 Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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: Genesis 12. 1 - 4a

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

We stand.

The Canticle: The Advent Prose

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

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord,
and remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert,
Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;
our holy and beautiful house,
where our ancestors praised you.

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

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;
we have all withered like a leaf,
and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.
You have hidden your face from us,
and abandoned us to our iniquities.

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

You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know me and believe me.
I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver;
what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

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

Comfort my people, comfort them;
my salvation shall not be delayed.
I have swept your offences away like a cloud;
fear not, for I will save you.
I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
your redeemer.

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

We sit.

The Second Reading: Matthew 1. 1 - 17

A reading from the Gospel according Matthew.

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

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

The prayers conclude with the following:

Minister Rejoicing in the communion of Mary and of all the Saints,
let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to God.
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.