

**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 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**6th December 2020**

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

There are 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, for example the Gloria.
* 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 remain seated and wave, nod or bow to each other.

**The Gathering**

*President* Jesus said,

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets:

I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.’

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

*President* God our Father,

you spoke to the prophets of old

of a Saviour who would bring peace.

You helped them to spread the joyful message

of his coming kingdom.

Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

to share with those around us

the good news of your power and love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world.

*All*  **Amen.**

*The second candle is lit.*

*President* Reveal among us the light of your presence

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

*We sit.*

**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.

1 Corinthians 4.5

*We keep a time of silence.*

*President* Heavenly Father,

you call us to repent of our sins:

soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

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

*President* Lord Jesus,

you declared the forgiveness of God:

teach us to forgive one another.

Christ, have mercy.

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

*President* Holy Spirit,

you search our hearts and show us the truth:

direct us in your way of righteousness.

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:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

and come among us,

and with great might succour us;

that whereas, through our sins and wickedness

we are grievously hindered

in running the race that is set before us,

your bountiful grace and mercy

may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

**The 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 stand.*

**The Gospel Reading:** Mark 1. 1 - 8

*President* Alleluia, alleluia.

We wait for a new heaven and new earth,

where righteousness is at home.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*2 Peter 3.13*

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

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

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.’

*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* Lord, have mercy,

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

*Or another response is used.*

*Intercessor* Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

*All* **Amen.**

*We stand.*

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

*President* God will speak peace to his people,

to those who turn to him in their hearts.

*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* Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

*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.*

**The Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the world

and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again,

we may be ready to greet him

with joyful love and firm faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Faithful God,**

**in baptism you have adopted us as your children,**

**made us members of the body of Christ**

**and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:**

**we thank you that in this Eucharist**

**you renew your promises within us,**

**empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,**

**and send us out as disciples of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*We stand.*

**The Blessing**

*President* May God himself, the God of peace,

make you perfect and holy,

and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,

for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

**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.*

*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 hold online coffee sessions from 12:00-1:00pm each Sunday. We’d love to see you online, if you’d like to join us.*

**More information:** [**stmaryswalkley.co.uk**](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk/)**/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/**