

# 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 Third Sunday of Advent

### 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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

*We stand.*

*Minister* Jesus said,  
'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born;  
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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

*Minister* People of God: return!  
You are called to be God's own.  
From the mountains announce the good news.  
God comes in justice and peace,  
to all who follow his ways.  
You are God's children.

*All* **Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ  
today and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The third candle is lit.*

*Minister* 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

*Minister* A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

John 1.23

*We keep a time of silence.*

*Minister* Heavenly Father,  
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:  
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

*Minister* Lord Jesus,  
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:  
help us also to prepare your way.  
Christ, have mercy.

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

*Minister* Holy Spirit,  
you speak through the prophets:  
make us attentive to hear your word.  
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:

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **The Reading: Zephaniah 3. 14 - end**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

*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 3. 7 - 18

*Minister* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*Isaiah 22.6*

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Minister* 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* May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*President* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*Minister* 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* Let what we do at this table, Lord,  
be a continual sacrifice of praise,  
and as we proclaim the Lord's death,  
accomplish your saving work among us  
until his return in glory.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## 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.

*Minister* 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.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **We praise and thank you, creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.  
Every year we celebrate your coming as Emmanuel.  
Every eucharist celebrates his death,  
in the bread we break and the cup we share,  
until that day when we shall see you face to face,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*We stand.*

## **The Blessing**

*President* Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
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**

*Minister* 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/](https://stmaryswalkley.co.uk/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/)**