

# 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

### Eucharist

### 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes**

**Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes**

**Churchwarden on duty: Alexandra**

## The Gathering and Opening Hymn

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

*President* 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!**

*President* God our Father,  
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age  
a son called John.  
He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.  
Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,  
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,  
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

*All* **Amen.**

*The third candle is lit.*

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

*We remain standing and we sing:*

*All* **Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.**

**John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
Keep your vision strong and steady,  
And be ready  
For the Lord.**

## 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.*

*All* **Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*Cantor* Christe eléison

*All* **Christe eléison**

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*Cantor* Christe eléison

*All* **Christe eléison**

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*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: Isaiah 61. 1 - 4, 8 - end

*Reader* 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.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
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.**

### **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing.*

### **The Gospel Reading: John 1. 6 - 8, 19 - 28**

*Minister* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*All* **Alleluia.**

Isaiah 40.3–5

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **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* Merciful Father,  
*All* **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*We stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.78,79*

*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.*

### The Offertory Hymn

*We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving station.*



## 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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

*Cantor* Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty,

*All* **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

*President* We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

*Minister* Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*Cantor* Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,

*All* **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

*President* Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, Mark, John and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*Cantor* Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
glory to the Lord God almighty,

*All* **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
glory to the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
glory, glory, glory to the Lord.**

*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. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask for them at the altar rail. During the distribution we sing and 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* **Generous God,  
you have fed us at your heavenly table.  
Set us on fire with your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine like lights before his face,  
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever. Amen.**

## The Notices

*We stand.*

## The Blessing

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the ministers process.*

## 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.**

***Coffee and tea are served after the service please move to the hall through the door at the back of the church.***

*Please be mindful of those who prefer to keep their distance from others at the moment.*

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)



## Christmas services

**17<sup>th</sup> December @4pm – Christmas Carol service**

**24<sup>th</sup> December @4pm – Christingle service**

**24<sup>th</sup> December @11:30pm – Christmas Midnight Eucharist**

**25<sup>th</sup> December @10:30am – Christmas Day Eucharist**