

# 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

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

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

**President:** The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings  
**Preacher:** David, Reader at St Mary's  
**Churchwarden on duty:** Janet

## The Gathering and Opening Hymn

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

*President* Jesus said,  
“Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother  
or sister or mother.”

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

*President* God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

*All* **Amen.**

*The fourth 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.**

**Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory;  
empty tomb!**

## 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:

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## The Reading: 2 Samuel 7. 1 - 11, 16

*Reader* A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

## **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing.*

## **The Gospel Reading: Luke 1. 26 - 38**

*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 Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

## 7The 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* Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

*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.

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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,  
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,  
give us grace to prepare for life eternal.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,  
reveal to us the path from darkness to light.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* May God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help us bear the fruits of holiness.

*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 robed 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**