

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

The First Sunday of Christmas Eucharist

31st December 2023

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings
Churchwarden on duty: Alexandra**

The Gathering and Opening Hymn

We stand and we sing the opening hymn.

President In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

President Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

The Confession and Absolution

Minister Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

We keep a time of silence.

Minister God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

The Gloria in Excelsis

Cantor Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

The Collect

President Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

We sit.

The Reading: Isaiah 61. 10 - 62. 3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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 2. 15 - 21

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All **Alleluia.**

John 1.14

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

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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 Jesus, saviour,
All **Hear our prayer.**

Or another response is used.

Intercessor Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
All **you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

We stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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 All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Cantor Holy Holy Holy Lord

All **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

Cantor God of power and God of might

All **God of power and God of might**

Cantor Heaven and earth are full of your glory

All **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Cantor Hosanna in the highest

All **Hosanna in the highest**

Cantor Blessed is he who comes

All **Blessed is he who comes**

Cantor In the name of the Lord most High

All **In the name of the Lord most High**

Cantor Hosanna

All **Hosanna**

Cantor Hosanna

All **Hosanna**

Cantor Hosanna in the highest

All **Hosanna in the highest**

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 Great is the mystery of faith:

Cantor Dying you destroyed our death

All **Dying you destroyed our death**

Cantor Rising you restored our life

All **Rising you restored our life**

Cantor Lord Jesus come

All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Lord Jesus come

All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Come again in glory

All **Come again in glory**

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.

All **Amen.**

We sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Giving of Communion

President Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

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 and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front. We are now able to receive the wine as well as the bread. The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar.

During the distribution we sing.

The Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.**

The Notices

We stand.

The Blessing

President May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon us his children.

All **Amen.**

President May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill us with joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

President May the Holy Spirit,
by whose working Mary became the God-bearer,
give us grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All **Amen.**

President 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 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 Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

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

