

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

Advent Carol Service

1st December 2024

Officiant: David, Reader at St Mary's

The Preparation

We remain seated as The Word was with God in the beginning is sung.

Minister The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.

Minister Come, O Lord, comfort the souls of your servants.
All **Even so, Lord, come.**

Minister O Lord Jesus Christ, come
All **at evening time, with light,**

Minister and in the morning, with your glory,
All **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

The minister introduces the service.

Minister Friends, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ.

Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that we all may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Minister **Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**
All **Amen.**

The Opening Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn number 209.

We sit for the reading.

The First Reading: Genesis 1. 1 - 5

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn number 102.

The Second Reading: Isaiah 42. 5 - 9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

The Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn number 193.

We sit for the reading.

The Third Reading: Micah 4. 1 - 5

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig
trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
for ever and ever.

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

The Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn number 98.

We sit for the reading.

The Fourth Reading: Isaiah 60. 1 - 5a

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

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

The Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn number 49.

We sit for the reading.

The Fifth Reading: Isaiah 9. 2, 3, 6, 7

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The singing group: Come now O Prince of Peace

We remain seated.

The Sixth Reading: Luke 1. 26 - 38

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The singing group: Praise to the God who clears the way

We remain seated.

The Prayers

We sit or kneel.

Intercessor Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

Intercessor That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness and peace,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That the church may faithful in the service of others
and seek your presence in the world,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

The prayers conclude with the following:

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 Closing Hymn

We stand and we sing hymn 358.

The Blessing

Minister With love and compassion,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister With judgement and mercy,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister In power and glory,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister In wisdom and truth,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,
scatter the darkness from before our path,
and make us 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 us and remain with us always.
All **Amen.**

Christmas services

22nd December @4pm – Christmas Carol service

24th December @4pm – Christingle service

24th December @11:30pm – Christmas Midnight Eucharist

25th December @10:30am – Christmas Day Eucharist

If you would like to provide feedback on this service please speak a member of the Worship Group, Kath, Catherine, Janet or David. You can also email us

worship@stmaryswalkley.co.uk

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

