

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Choral Eucharist in Advent

6th December 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

A warm welcome to you. In order to worship safely a few elements of the service differ from our usual practice. Each person is asked to remain in their place throughout the service, other than to receive Communion when you will be guided by a steward. The person presiding, as well as brief notes in this order of service, will guide you as we proceed. While the service itself may be filmed for the benefit of those at home, only those leading will appear on film, not the congregation.

**Please take this order of service away with you and use it for prayer
at home/recycle it.**

The Gathering

The Greeting

Please stand as able.

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

All: Amen

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

And also with you.

**Blessed be you, Gracious One, who waits with our world,
who never departs but comes when least expected,
who never insists but longs to be invited.
Be in our waiting and watching this day.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Lord Jesus Christ,
you see our restless hearts and you offer peace;
you see our incompleteness and you offer wholeness;
you see our failings and you offer forgiveness.

A moment of stillness

Lord Jesus, bring light to the darkness in our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your redeeming love.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our ears to your life-giving word.

Lord, have mercy.

Please remain standing as you are able while the choir sings. You are encouraged to pray the words silently along with the music.

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison

*Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us*

Music by Benjamin Britten

Absolution

May the God of love and life
forgive you and free you from all that divides you,
heal and strengthen you by the Spirit,
and restore you to wholeness in Christ.

Amen.

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The first two candles of the Advent Wreath are lit and we say together:

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.**

**Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.**

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand as able. The choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

Creed

Please stand as able.

Let us affirm our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions

Please sit or kneel.

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father:

At the end of each prayer, the intercessor says:

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

At the end of the final prayer, the intercessor says:

Lord of the Church

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand as able.

May God, the bringer of hope,

bless you with courage

to never give up believing in peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The sign of peace is not physically offered, but only in spoken response. We remain in our places.

Offertory Hymn

Please sit as we listen to two verses of the hymn 'Long ago, prophets knew' sung to the tune 'Personent hodie'. You are welcome to pray the words silently as the choir sings.

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

F. Pratt Green (1903 - 2000)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

God of surprises, who delights in giving,
give us gratitude of heart that we might see the gifts of another;
gratitude of spirit that we might see the blessings you have brought to us;
gratitude of open hands for all you will place into them this day.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand as able.

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You saw the yearning of the earth,
and prepared the coming of the Saviour
by the waiting of the prophets, the message of angels,
and the love of a human mother.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria Tua
Hosanna in excelsis

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest*

Benedictus qui veni in nomine Domini
Hosanna in excelsis

*Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest*

Music by Benjamin Britten

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Alphege, ... and all your saints we give you glory, through
Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

A bell is rung to signify the sacramental presence of Christ, followed by a moment of stillness.

Please sit.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the
sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the
sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Music by Benjamin Britten

The Invitation

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The celebrant raises paten and chalice and says

The Body and Blood of Christ.

Amen.

The Giving of Communion

Only the celebrant receives Communion under both kinds (bread and wine).

*The hosts (bread) for the congregation will be in a closed ciborium (container)
which is uncovered just before the congregation receives. The stewards will
guide everyone to the right location.*

Communion Motet

He bare hym up, he bare hym down,
He bare hym into an orchard brown.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath born my mate away.

And in that orchard there was an hall,
That was hanged with purple and pall.

And in that hall there was a bed,
And it was hangid with gold so red.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath born my mate away.

And on this bed there lythe a knight,
His woundes bleeding day and night.

By that bed side kneeleth a may,
And she weepeth both night and day.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath born my mate away.

And by his bed side standith a stone,
"Corpus Christi" written theron.

'The Falcon Carol'
Music by Benjamin Britten

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Fill us with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine as lights in his presence,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Notices

The celebrant will give the details of any particularly important notices and read any Banns of Marriage.

Please see the weekly pewslip (available online or via the Parish Office) for a full list of notices.

The Blessing

Please stand as able.

May God, the bringer of hope,
bless you with patience when the world weeps,
bless you with work that you may do your part,
bless you with prayer as you light your candle
against the darkness.

And may God, the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,
bless you this day and give you peace.

Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour,
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.