



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# Sung Eucharist

The third Sunday of Advent



# Welcome to St Mary's



## **Please sanitise your hands**

Please clean your hands using the provided hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.



## **Masks welcome**

If you feel more comfortable wearing a face covering, please do so. If you've forgotten a face covering and would like one, please speak to a member of our team.



## **Keeping your distance**

If you want to keep some extra space between yourself and others, we recommend sitting in our physically distanced pews at the north side of the building.



## **Communion is your choice**

Communion is available as both bread and wine, but if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your seat. Receiving only the bread is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England.



## **Handshakes optional**

When we offer each other a sign of peace you're welcome to share a handshake, but remember that some people may not be comfortable with this and will instead simply nod or wave.

## Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards, especially during communion.

## Hearing loop available

Our building is fitted with an inductive loop system which can be picked up by setting hearing aids to the “T” position.

## Support our work

St Mary’s is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community, and maintain its buildings and outdoor spaces.

If you would like to donate to support us you can give during the service as giving plates are passed around. Alternatively, you can place your offering in the plate by the door as you leave, or tap your contactless card or device.

You can also donate online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your camera or by visiting [wkrk.uk/donate](https://wkrk.uk/donate).



If you'd like to give in some other way, find out more about planned giving, or learn how we use donations then please ask a member of our team.

## **Other services this week**

### **Messy Church Christingle Service**

Today at 4.00 pm

### **Said Eucharist**

Wednesday 7 December at 10.00 am

## **Christmas at Whitkirk**

### **Messy Church Christingle Service**

Sunday 11 December at 4.00 pm

### **Festival of Lessons and Carols**

Sunday 18 December at 6.00 pm

### **Family Crib Service**

Saturday 24 December at 5.00 pm

### **Midnight Eucharist with Carols**

Saturday 24 December at 11.30 pm

### **Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols**

Sunday 25 December at 10.00 am

# Notices and events

## Messy Church Christingle Service

**Today at 4.00 pm**

**St Mary's Church Whitkirk Community Centre**

Church, but more hands-on. Join us in the Community Centre for drinks and a biscuit, get stuck in with activities around the week's theme, and then end with a short, informal act of worship in the church.

## Thank God It's Friday

**Friday 16 December 2022 at 6.30 pm**

**St Mary's Church Whitkirk Community Centre**

Unwind at the end of the week with us – drop in to grab a drink, play some games, order a takeaway, or even just to chat.

## Festival of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 18 December 2022 at 6.00 pm**

**St Mary's Church, Whitkirk**

The traditional celebration of the Christmas story in words and music. Join our choir as they sing arrangements of new and traditional carols, and join in with well-known favourites, all interspersed with readings from the Bible by members of the local community.

There are refreshments in the Community Centre after the service – tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies.

## **Family Crib Service**

**Saturday 24 December 2022 at 5.00 pm**

**St Mary's Church, Whitkirk**

Come and join us as we celebrate the Baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to our annual crib service with loads of familiar carols – an excellent way for children and families to get together and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

You are also warmly invited to dress as your favourite characters in the Christmas story – why not come as an angel, Mary, Joseph, a sheep, or even an innkeeper?

## **Join us after the service for refreshments**

You are warmly invited to join us after the service for refreshments in our Community Centre.

# The Gathering

*Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

**Christ is the world's true light,  
Its captain of salvation,  
The day-star clear and bright  
Of ev'ry race and nation;  
New life, new hope awakes,  
Where'ere we own his sway:  
Freedom her bondage breaks,  
And night is turned to day.**

**In Christ all races meet,  
Their ancient feuds forgetting,  
The whole round world complete,  
From sunrise to its setting:  
When Christ is throned as Lord,  
All shall forsake their fear,  
To ploughshare beat the sword,  
To pruning-hook the spear.**

**One Lord, in one great name  
Unite us all who own thee;  
Cast out our pride and shame  
That hinder to enthrone thee;  
The world has waited long,  
Has travailed long in pain;  
To heal its ancient wrong,  
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign!**

*Words: G. W. Briggs (1875-1959)*

*Music: J. Crüger (1598-1662)*

*Hymn Tune: NUN DANKET*

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

**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

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

**and also with you.**



# Words of Welcome

## Invitation to Confession

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father,  
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:  
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:  
help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you speak through the prophets:  
make us attentive to hear your word.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*A setting of the 'Kyrie eleison' is sung by the Choir.*

*The president says:*

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming  
sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the  
desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus  
it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy  
and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given  
to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They  
shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our  
God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm

the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it; but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35.1-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. At the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.*

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,  
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes, the pris'ners to release  
In Satan's bondage held;  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
Enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With thy belovèd name.**

*Words: P. Doddridge (1702-1751) based on Luke 4.18-19*

*Music: T. Ravenscroft (c.1582- c.1633), 'Psalms' (1621)*

*Hymn Tune: BRISTOL*

# Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about

whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

*Matthew 11.2-11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Please sit after the preacher leads us in prayer.*

# **An Affirmation of Faith**

*Please stand with the president.*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*



# Prayers of Intercession

*Following an invitation to pray from the intercessor we kneel or sit to pray.*

*The response to the bidding:*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*then at the end:*

Merciful Father,

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

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand with the president.*

## The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*This is usually a handshake shared with those near you.*

## **Preparation of the Table**

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*A hymn is sung. During this hymn a collection, our financial offering in support of the work of the church both at St. Mary's and across our diocese, is taken.*

*You can place cash or giving envelopes in the collection plates as they are passed around. If you would prefer, or if you miss the plate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tapping your contactless card or device on the giving plate by the door as you leave.*



**Hills of the North, rejoice,  
Echoing songs arise,  
Hail with united voice  
Him who made earth and skies:  
He comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on ev'ry breeze,  
Hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn,  
Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
The God whom we have longed to know  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,  
Lands of the setting sun,  
Welcome the heav'nly guest  
In whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light  
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,  
Songs be in ev'ry mouth;  
Lo, from the North they come,  
From East and West and South.  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
In him the sons of earth be blest.**

*Words: from the New English Hymnal based on C. E. Oakley (1832-1865)*

*Music: M. Shaw (1875-1958)*

*Hymn Tune: LITTLE CORNARD*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

*Please kneel or sit.*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer (A)**

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung as the bread is broken for distribution.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Draw near with faith and thanksgiving  
you who hunger for the bread of life.  
Gather around the table  
as strangers and friends and feed on him  
who was, who is and who is to come.

*The president and people receive communion. All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please follow the guidance offered by the stewards.*

*If you are not baptised, or would prefer to not receive then do still come forward for a blessing bringing this book with you so the president knows your intention.*

*The sacrament is available in both kinds, however if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your place. Receiving in one kind is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England. Please do not dip bread in the wine (sometimes called 'intincting').*



*For those at home it might be helpful to use this prayer during the distribution.*

***Almighty Father,  
we rejoice in the coming of Christ our Lord.  
We pray that, as he has taken on our humanity,  
through your grace and goodness we may share in your divinity,  
and so partake in the radiance of your glory;  
through him who came down for us  
and is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

## **Choir Anthem**

### **‘People, look East’**

People, look East. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast  
Him who cometh from the East.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.

*Words: E. Farjeon (1881-1965)*

*Music: Besançon carol melody arranged by M. Archer (b. 1952)*

*The following communion hymns may be sung during the distribution as time allows. Please remain seated.*

**Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;  
'Tis thy Saviour, hear his word;  
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,  
'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'**  
**'I delivered thee when bound,  
And, when wounded, healed thy wound;  
Sought thee wand'ring, set thee right,  
Turned thy darkness into light.**

**'Can a woman's tender care  
Cease towards the child she bare?  
Yes, she may forgetful be,  
Yet will I remember thee.**

**'Mine is an unchanging love,  
Higher than the heights above,  
Deeper than the depths beneath,  
Free and fruitful, strong as death.**

**'Thou shalt see my glory soon,  
When the work of grace is done;  
Partner of my throne shalt be:  
Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'**

**Lord, it is my chief complaint  
That my love is weak and faint;  
Yet I love thee, and adore;  
O for grace to love thee more!**

*Words: W. Cowper (1731-1800) based on John 21:16*

*Music: J. B. Dykes (1823-1876)*

*Music: SAINT BEES*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest!  
Yea, let us each our heart prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Holy Ghost for evermore.**

*Words: C. Coffin (1676-1749)*

*translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876)*

*and the editors of 'Hymns & Psalms'*

*Music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' (1690)*

*Hymn Tune: WINCHESTER NEW*

**The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:  
All my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:  
God the well-spring of life.**

*Words: Taizé Community*

*Music: J. Berthier (1923-1994)*

# The Post Communion Prayer and The Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Please stand as the president introduces a time of silent prayer with the words '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.**

**Amen.**

*The president then moves to the Advent Wreath to light the third of the Advent candles. This week the candle helps us remember John the Baptist, who proclaimed the Saviour.*

*The candle is lit and this prayer is said.*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.  
May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him  
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,  
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*A hymn is sung.*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
Mortals give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains,  
He took his seat above.**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**His kingdom cannot fail;  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n.**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

**He sits at God's right hand  
Till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command,  
And fall beneath his feet.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

*Hymn Tune: GOPSAL*

## **The Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you 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 you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
**find us watching and waiting.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**









## **Our regular services**

Sung Eucharist:           Every Sunday at 10.00 am  
Said Eucharist:           Every Wednesday at 10.00 am  
Choral Evensong:        Next on Sunday 8 January at 6.00 pm

## **Contact us**

If you'd like to talk to us you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

## **Recycle me!**

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