



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

Sung Eucharist

The fourth Sunday of Advent



Welcome to St Mary's

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 on 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.



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.

Hearing loop available

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

Follow the instructions of our stewards

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



Please sanitise your hands

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



Digital order of service available

If you prefer, you can follow our order of service on your own phone or tablet. Just visit wkrk.uk/oos on your browser or scan this QR Code.



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.



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.



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.

We encourage people with coughs and colds to wear a face covering, to help prevent the spread of winter bugs.

Upcoming services

Crib Service

Today at 5.00 pm

Midnight Mass

Today at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion

Tomorrow at 10.00 am

Please Note:

There will not be a Said Eucharist on Wednesday 27 December.

Notices and events

Join us after the service for refreshments

You are warmly invited to join us after 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.

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears, on earth to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
We who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788),
John Cennick (1718-1755)
and Martin Madan (1726-1790)*

*Music: from John Wesley's
'Select Hymns with Tunes Annex't' (1765)
Hymn Tune: HELMSLEY*

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

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees;
every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.'
But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

cf Matthew 3.10

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

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'.

God with us,
borne by Mary's flesh
beyond all convention:
give us the faith of Joseph
to see the Spirit's work
where the world sees only shame;
to listen to the promise
and waken to the cry
of life renewed and love reborn;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Now when David, 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 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, David, 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.

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

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.

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)
Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)
Hymn Tune: WOODLANDS*

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 Luke.

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.

Luke 1.26-38

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

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



**Sing we of the blessèd Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed,
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calv'ry's tree,
Saw the price of our redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And, in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came.
Heav'nly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the greatest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heav'nly home:
Virgin mother, Mary blessèd,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.**

Words: George Bourne Timms (1910-1997)

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

Hymn Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

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.

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:

**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.

Lord our Saviour, our hope is in you:

no one is beyond your love,

no one is beyond your saving power.

**Give us grace to recognise you and welcome you
as you come to us;**

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

‘The angel Gabriel from heaven came’

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.’ Gloria!

‘For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be;
All generations laud and honour thee:
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured lady.’ Gloria!

Then gently Mary meekly bowed her head;
‘To me be as it pleaseth God!’ she said.
‘My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born,
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Basque traditional melody

arranged by Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

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

**For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God adored,
As on her child she gazed.**

**The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.**

**The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made
Which our redemption won.**

**She gave her body for God's shrine,
Her heart to piercing pain,
And knew the cost of love divine
When Jesus Christ was slain.**

**Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee,
There comes a joy and holiness
To ev'ry family.**

**Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
And blest your Son, whom your embrace
In birth and death confessed.**

Words: John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)

Music: Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

Hymn Tune: SAINT BOTOLPH

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)

Hymn Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

**Shall we not love thee, Mother dear,
Whom Jesus loves so well,
And to his glory, year by year,
Thy praise and honour tell.**

**Thee did he choose from whom to take
True flesh, his flesh to be;
In it to suffer for our sake,
And by it make us free.**

**O wondrous depth of love divine,
That he should bend so low;
And, Mary, O what joy was thine
The Saviour's love to know.**

**Joy to be mother of the Lord,
Yet thine the truer bliss,
In ev'ry thought and deed and word
To be for ever his.**

**Jesu, the Virgin's holy Son,
Praise we thy mother blest;
Grant when our earthly course is run,
Life with the saints at rest.**

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

Hymn Tune: SAINT AGNES (DYKES)

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'.

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.
Amen.**

The president then moves to the Advent Wreath to light the fourth of the Advent candles. This week the candle helps us remember Mary who bore Jesus in her womb. The candle is lit and this prayer is said.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

A hymn is sung.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient time didst give the Law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*Words: from the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th century)
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

*Music: adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) from a French Missal
arranged by Colin Hand (1929-2015)*

Hymn Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

The Dismissal

The Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

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:	First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm Next on Sunday 7 January
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm Next on Wednesday 3 January


Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch you can send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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