

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



## **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 phone's 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.



# 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.

# **iii** Children welcome

We love having children at our services and we want them – and their families – to love being here. If your children need to move around or make noise during the service, please don't feel uncomfortable. We are glad to hear and see them: they are the future of the church!

Toys and activities are provided in our Family Corner just inside the main door and children are welcome to make use of these either in this area or in their pew. Please note that this area is not supervised; children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

# Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding team can be contacted at any time. You can talk to Rev'd Claire or to Janet Blenkinsop, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, you can email **safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or you can find more information and contact details at **wkrk.uk/safe**.

# **Upcoming services**

#### Festival of Lessons and Carols

Today at 6.00 pm

#### Said Eucharist

Wednesday 18 December at 10.00 am

#### Sung Eucharist for the fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22 December at 10.00 am

### **Notices and events**

## **Daily Prayer**

There will be no Daily Prayer in the church after the morning of Christmas Eve. Daily Prayer will resume at the usual times of 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Tuesday 7 January. Daily Prayer from the Church of England can be accessed online at wkrk.uk/coe-daily-prayer.

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

## Today at 6.00 pm St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

The annual celebration of the Christmas story in words and music -a mix of new and traditional carols sung by the St Mary's Church Choir, well-known favourites for everyone to sing, and Bible readings by members of the local community.

Join us afterwards for tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies in our Community Centre.

## Whitkirk's Family Gathering

## This Friday 20 December at 6.30 pm St Mary's Church Whitkirk Community Centre

Our monthly chance to kick back and unwind at our Community Centre. The bar is open, and we'd love to invite you to come along, order a takeaway, bring some games... it's up to you!

## The Longest Night

# This Saturday 21 December at 10.00 pm St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

Christmas is not always an easy time of year. For those who have lost a loved-one, have suffered illness, or have had a tough year for any reason, the longest night can feel very dark indeed. To acknowledge this we are making the church available from 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm on the evening of the longest night, 21 December, for anyone who would like to light a candle, leave the name of a loved-one or a prayer for themselves on a prayer tree, or take time to 'just be' amid the busyness of the season. Space and peace, light and soft music, but no words. Come at any time and stay as long as you like. Please tell anyone you know who might find this helpful.

#### **Christmas Eve Crib Service**

# Tuesday 24 December at 5.00 pm St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

A family-friendly telling of the Nativity for all ages, with favourite carols for everyone to join in with. Why not come dressed as your favourite character from the Nativity and join in our Christmas story?

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

# The Gathering

Our worship begins at the sound of the bell. Please stand.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Lord, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

(Philippians 4:4-6; Psalm 85:1)

The introit hymn is sung, as the sacred ministers enter.

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode. On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?

Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear for a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near.

Thus they march, the pillar leading, light by night and shade by day; daily on the manna feeding which he gives them when they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
boasted pomp and empty show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807) based on Isaiah 33.20-21, alt. Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991) Hymn Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 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**

# **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

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

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.
He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptised into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

#### Amen.

The third candle is lit.

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.

## **Invitation to Confession**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'. So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

#### Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

#### Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

#### Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

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 Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Zephaniah 3.14-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. During the hymn a procession will make its way to the centre of the nave from where the Gospel for the day is read. To symbolise our desire to turn to Christ in our daily lives, at the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.

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: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Hymn Tune: GOPSAL

## **Gospel Reading**

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir 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.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not

bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Luke 3 7-18

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.

#### The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

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 on 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 card reader by the door as you leave.

Christ is the King, O friends rejoice! brothers and sisters with one voice make all men know he is your choice: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The first apostles round them drew thousands of faithful men and true, sharing a faith for ever new: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Then magnify the Lord and raise anthems of joy and holy praise for Christ's brave saints of ancient days: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O Christian women, Christian men, all the world over, seek again the way disciples followed then: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ through all ages is the same; place the same hope in his great name, with the same faith his word proclaim: Alleluia, alleluia.

Let Love's unconquerable might God's people everywhere unite in service to the Lord of light: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Words: George Kennedy Allen Bell (1883-1958)

Music: melody from Melchior Vulpius' 'Gesangbuch' (1609)

harmony by Henry George Ley (1887-1962)

Hymn Tune: VULPIUS (GELOBT SEI GOTT)

## 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 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.

Great is the mystery of faith;

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,

that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.

Amen.

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.

Come, Lord God, change us and we shall be changed.

Come, increase our awareness of your presence.

Come, strengthen our love for you.

Come, fill our hearts with holiness.

Come, awaken us to be ready and watchful for your coming.

Come, Lord God, change us and we shall be changed;

through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

Amen.

#### **Anthem**

Sung by the Choir.

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: Charles Coffin (1676-1749) translated by John Chandler (1806-1876) and the editors of 'Hymns & Psalms' Music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' (1690) arranged by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952) The following communion hymns may be sung during the distribution as time allows. Please remain seated.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know, and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind, and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare, will you let me answer prayer in you, and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free, and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you, and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside, and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you, and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

Words: John Lamberton Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019) Music: Scottish traditional melody arranged by Christopher Tambling (1964-2015) Hymn Tune: KELVINGROVE 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 beloved name.

> Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) based on Luke 4.18-19 Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1582- c.1633), 'Psalms' (1621)

Hymn Tune: BRISTOL

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

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.

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

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 the 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 by Colin Hand (1929-2015) Hymn Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

### 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: First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm

Compline: First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm

Daily Prayers: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

#### Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch 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**.

To help us reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, St Mary's uses recycled paper for all its single-use printing.

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