



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 phone's 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.

## 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto:safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk), or you can find more information and contact details at [wkrk.uk/safe](http://wkrk.uk/safe).

## **Upcoming services**

### **Christmas Eve Crib Service**

Tuesday 24 December at 5.00 pm

### **Midnight Mass**

Tuesday 24 December at 11.30 pm

### **Christmas Day Eucharist**

Wednesday 25 December at 10.00 am

### **Sung Eucharist for the first Sunday of Christmas**

Sunday 29 December at 10.00 am

**Please note that there is no midweek  
Eucharist on New Year's Day**

## **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](http://wkrk.uk/coe-daily-prayer).

## **A Christmas Wish from Rev'd Claire**

This is a personal note from me to wish every single person who attends St Mary's over the Christmas period a very Happy Christmas and a joyful 2025. It is a joy for me to be with you over the festive period and to share our celebrations of our Saviour's birth. I'd like to thank everyone who has sent a card to me and my family. I really appreciate it. Please do not be offended if you do not receive a card from me. I have made a donation to Shelter in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. More than 159,000 children in the UK will wake up this Christmas morning without a home of their own. I hope that, as we remember Jesus lying in a borrowed manger, you will agree that this is a good alternative to a more traditional card. May you, your families, and all those you love be very blessed this Christmas. Happy Christmas!  
Claire

## **Christmas Eve Crib Service**

**This 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?

## **Midnight Mass**

**This Tuesday 24 December at 11.30 pm**

**St Mary's Church, Whitkirk**

The first service of Christmas Day, as we welcome the Light of Christ.

# **Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day**

**This Wednesday 25 December at 10.00 am**

**St Mary's Church, Whitkirk**

Join us as we celebrate Christmas morning with a joyful service of music, prayers and readings.

## **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 as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

**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 (1926-2024)*

*Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

*Hymn Tune: WOODLANDS*

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 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.*

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen.**

*The fourth candle is lit.*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
Amen.**

# 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.

Christ, have mercy,

Christ, 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 our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
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 Micah.

The Lord says to his people:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in

the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Micah 5.2-5a*

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.*

**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 gentle 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)*

*Hymn Tune: BIRJINA GAZTETTOBAT ZEGOEN*

## **Gospel Reading**

*Choir* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the

mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

*Luke 1.39-55*

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 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.*



**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*

## **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 pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory, until you 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.*

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins 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.



**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.*

*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.*

## **Anthem**

*Sung by the Choir.*

There is no rose of such virtue  
as is the rose that bare Jesu:  
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was  
heav'n and earth in little space:

Res miranda. \*

\* A wonderful thing

By that rose we may well see  
there be one God in persons three:

Pares forma. \*\*

\*\* Of the same form

Then leave we all this worldly mirth,  
and follow we this joyous birth;

Transeamus. \*\*\*

\*\*\* Let us go

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century carol*

*Music: Graham Jordan Ellis*

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

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's Son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and ev'ry day  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this in remembrance, Lord, of you.  
Into our lives your pow'r breaks through,  
living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son Of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your pow'r breaks through,  
living Lord.**

*Words & Music: Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)*

*Hymn Tune: LIVING LORD*

**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*

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

*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.**

*A 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 Annexed' (1765)*

*Hymn Tune: HELMSLEY*

## **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  
(Except New Year's Day)
- Choral Evensong: First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm
- Compline: First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm  
Next on Wednesday 5 February  
(No Compline on New Year's Day)
- 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.

Please take this order of service home to recycle again.

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk 390 Selby Road Leeds LS15 0AA

Registered Charity Number 1130280