

## Holy Communion

9.30am – 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

People, look east. The time is near 35  
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 with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
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.

Eleanor Farjeon © Text: Gervase Farjeon

## Gathering and Greeting

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

All: Amen.

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

All: And also with you

**Welcome** – Revd Philip Sudell

We light the fourth candle  
on the Advent Wreath and  
sing:



Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 © 1993, 2000,  
Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP

## Prayers of Penitence

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.

## Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we  
have done evil in your sight. We are sorry  
and repent. Have mercy on us according to  
your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit  
within us and restore us to the joy of your  
salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

We sing the

## Kyrie

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

## Assurance of forgiveness

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

# The Collect

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.

All:       Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All:       Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 80v1-8

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, • you that led Joseph like a flock;

<sup>2</sup> Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, • before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved..

<sup>3</sup> Stir up your mighty strength • and come to our salvation.

<sup>4</sup> Turn us again, O God; • show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved..

<sup>5</sup> O Lord God of hosts, • how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

<sup>6</sup> You feed them with the bread of tears; • you give them abundance of tears to drink.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved..

<sup>7</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbours, • and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>8</sup> Turn us again, O God of hosts; • show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

My song shall proclaim your steadfast love, O Lord.

## New Testament Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All:       Thanks be to God.

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon – Philip Sudell

## Profession of Faith

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

And at the end: Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### 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. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your heads you mighty gates, 30  
Behold the King of glory waits  
The King of kings is drawing near  
The Saviour of the world is here

O blest the land the city blest  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes

Fling wide the portals of your heart  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy

Come, Saviour, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide:  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on,  
until our glorious goal is won.

Catherine Winkworth | Georg Weissel

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God

All: **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.

Christ is the bread of life.

All: **When we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord  
Jesus, 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:

All:        Blessing and honour and glory and  
              power be yours for ever and ever.  
              Amen.

## 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.

## The Breaking of Bread

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

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

## Agnus Dei

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

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world, grant us peace.

## The Giving of 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.

## Prayer after Communion

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

## Church family news

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!  
powers 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!

Timothy Dudley-Smith  
© 1961 Dudley-Smith, Timothy



## 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.

All:       Amen

## Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

All:       Thanks be to God.

## Readings for next Sunday

28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas 1

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Psalms 124

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Matthew 2:13-18

CCLI: 777478

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# The week ahead

Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am 11am 3:30pm-5pm 6pm	Holy Communion Family Carols Choir Rehearsal Carols by Candlelight
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>		
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>		
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	11pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>		Boxing Day
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>		
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Service

# Looking ahead



## Jesus: in his own words

A 4 week course exploring what it means to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Each session is an hour long and looks at what Jesus says about why we need to follow him and how we do that from his words recorded in the gospels in the bible. 8-9pm - Wed 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at 163 Colney Hatch Lane



Use the QR code to register your interest.

# Winter Dates

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – Carol Services  
Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Co-Mission Sunday  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Co-mission Women's morning  
Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – Co-Mission Day of Prayer  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Co-mission Men's morning



# Christmas Services

