

**St Mary-at-Finchley**  
**Parish Eucharist**  
**10am**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

The Gathering

***Stand*** *A hymn is sung as the choir, servers and clergy enter*

**Processional Hymn:** 401 On Jordan's bank

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 breast from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
prepare we in our hearts a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee

whose advent doth thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

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

**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **The Advent Wreath**

*A Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and a prayer said*

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 baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.  
Help us, who have been baptized 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.**

## ***Kneel***

## **Prayers of Penitence**

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

**O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name,  
Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life et eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Kyrie eleison**

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

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***

### **Readings**

Sit

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah (35.1-10)**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.

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

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 146.5-end**

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

## **A reading from the letter of James (5.7-10)**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11.2-11).

## **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sit**

*JUNIOR CHURCH NATIVITY*

**Sermon**

**Stand**

**The Affirmation of Faith**

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

**We believe in God the Father, who created all things: for by his will they were created and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son, who was slain: for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit: the Spirit and the Bride say, Come! Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## ***Kneel***

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers may follow this sequence:*

*The Church of Christ*

*Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

*The local community*

*Those who suffer*

*The communion of saints*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(or) Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### ***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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **The Offertory**

*A Hymn is sung as the elements of bread and wine are brought to the altar and the gifts of the people are collected.*

### **Offertory Hymn 82 Christ whose glory**

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return  
'til thy mercy's beams I see;  
'til they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,

so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## ***Stand*                      The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

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.**

***Kneel***

**The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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 Bread**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

**Agnus Dei**

**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.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communicant members of all Christian Churches are welcome to receive  
Holy  
Communion in this Church.  
Anyone is welcome to come forward for to receive a blessing.*

During Communion the Anthem: Wood Magnificat in D

## **Kneel**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion prayer is said.*

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.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.**

**Amen.**

## **The Notices**

**Stand** A hymn is sung

### **Post Communion Hymn 467 Tell out, my soul**

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

# The Dismissal

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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