



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22 December 2024, 11.00am

President:

The Revd Dr John Barker

Preacher:

The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam

Our church services are recorded and streamed on our website. You may be filmed during the service, and pictures of you may be transmitted online and as mobile content. By entering the church you consent to such filming and to the transmission of any broadcast. If you do not wish to be filmed please speak to one of the welcome team who will direct you to an unfilmed area in the north aisle.

WELCOME

to all who are joining us today, whether in church or online.

For those with children you will find space in the south aisle where you will be able to see and participate in the whole service. You will find some activity sheets to enable you and any children you have brought with you to engage with our service. Please ask one of our friendly welcomers if you need anything before or during the service.

We will be taking a collection during the service, and we encourage those who are UK tax payers to use one of the gift aid envelopes which are available in the pews. This will increase the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to you.

You can also make a debit/credit card donation to All Hallows by using the donations machine at the back of the church, by using the QR code on your phone, or via our website at www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate

Thank you.



Security Notice

We advise you not to leave personal belongings unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. Do not leave bags on the floor by your feet, and make sure you take any valuables with you when you go up to receive Communion. For additional safety and security, 24 hour CCTV recording is in operation on these premises.

Music Before the Service

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren BWV 648 – JS Bach

Organist: David Cook

The Gathering

Please stand.

Hymn

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

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
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
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own;
O come quickly
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Charles Wesley, 1707-88. Tune: Helmsley

Welcome and Introduction

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome and introduction are said.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

A member of the congregation is invited to light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and the following prayer is said:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Prayers of Confession

Please sit or kneel.

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.

Silence is kept.

You bring our fear into the light of love;
we prefer to hide in the shadows.



You promise healing for the earth;
we turn our backs on our common world.



You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh;
we are unprepared for your coming.



The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.
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.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Micah 5.2-5a *read by John Price*

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.

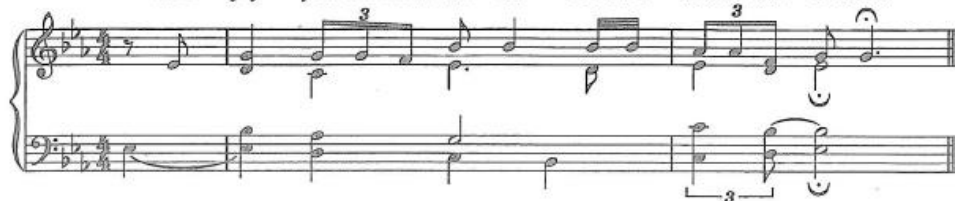
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated for **The Canticle: Magnificat** sung by Dorothy Lawrence

With joy you will draw wa - ter from the wells of sal - va - tion.



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed; **R/**

the almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

His has mercy on those who fear him
in ev'ry generation. **R/**

He has shown the strength of his arm:
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones:
he has lifted up the lowly. **R/**

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children forever. **R/**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10 read by *David Risley*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

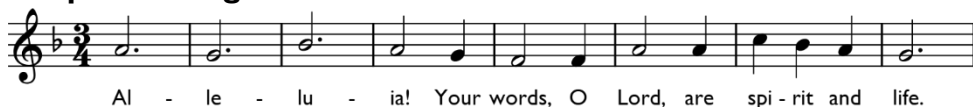
When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and face the Gospel for the **Gospel Acclamation**

Gospel Reading: Luke 1.39-55



Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

All **Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

Prepare a way for the Lord.

Make God's pathway straight,

and all the earth shall see the saving love of God.

All **Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

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

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

In those days 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit.

The Sermon

The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam

The Nicene Creed

Please stand.

**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.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Kate Price*

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

**All Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please stand.

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During the hymn a collection will be taken towards the ministry of this church. If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews. Thank you.

**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 to 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 (1926-2024) Tune: Woodlands

The Preparation of the Table

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - - est.
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:

All **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:

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:

All **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 the 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 a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All 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 invited to receive Holy Communion at All Hallows. All others may come forward for a prayer of blessing - please indicate this by bowing your head.

Music During Communion

Gabriel's Message – Tr J.M. Neale

Post-Communion Prayer

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.

All **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.

Notices

The Dismissal

Please stand.

Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son,

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating us from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty,
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.

O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

**O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light,
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

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

**O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.**

Verse 1 may be repeated at the close

*Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons.
Tr T.A. Lacey 1853-1931 and Editors Tune: Veni Emmanuel*

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.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Music after the Service

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn BWV 601 – JS Bach

You are invited to stay for refreshments after the service.

CHRISTMAS at ALL HALLOWS

Midnight Mass

Sunday 24 December, 11.30pm

A candlelit communion service with carols celebrating the birth of Christ.

Christmas Day

Monday 25 December, 11am

A joyful communion service to celebrate the birth of Christ

Christmas & New Year Opening Times

After our Christmas Day service the church will be closed until we re-open at 8.00am on Tuesday 2 January, when normal opening times will resume.

Notices

Looking Closer, Looking Deeper

Podcast episode 10 is now out! "Ring Out Wild Bells; The McConnell Chime"

To listen, go to www.spotify.com and search for 'All Hallows by the Tower' , or use link: <https://rb.gy/yqozty>

Advent Reading

Join us this Advent as we read together Isabelle Hamley's book Embracing Humanity: A Journey towards becoming flesh.

"Through the lens of Advent and Christmas, Isabelle Hamley guides us through daily reflections and prayers, encouraging us to meditate on being human in the light of God's choice to reach out to us in Jesus."

We have a couple of the books in church which are available for £10. Please let Michael know if you would like one. (parish@ahbtt.org.uk)

Join us in person or on zoom as we journey with Isabelle's book through Advent: The second session: Sunday 5th at 1pm or Wednesday 8th January at 7pm.

Collecting for Bow Foodbank and the Square Mile Hygiene Bank

You can donate to the Bow Foodbank and the Square Mile Hygiene Bank by using the collection boxes in church. The Bow Foodbank accepts non-perishable, in date, unopened and labelled food, and the Hygiene Bank accepts new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials; your donations can make a real difference to those in need in our local area.

Two Cities EcoTips

Gifts of Social Service and Overseas aid - www.Oxfamunwrapped.com Oxfam Unwrapped is a range of **charity gift cards and instant eCards** that help people beat poverty for good. You can choose a gift to give to your friends or family on any occasion and know that you are helping and improving the lives of people living in poverty.

The Week Ahead

Church Opening Times

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm Saturday-Sunday: 10am-5pm

Services at All Hallows

You are welcome to join us for any of our services in church.
Our Sunday Eucharist and Taizé services are streamed on Zoom.

Monday 23 December

No services today

Church closed from:

Thursday 26 December

Tuesday 24 December

8.30am Morning Prayer

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Church re-opens:

Thursday 2 January

8.30am

Wednesday 25 December

11am Christmas Morning Eucharist

Sunday 29 December: No service, church closed

Sunday 5 January: Epiphany of our Lord

11am Parish Eucharist; Preacher: The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam

Next Taizé Prayer – Wednesday 8 January at 6pm

This service will take place **in church and online**. You are welcome to join us for this meditative time of prayer, music and reflection.

If you can't attend in person and would like to join us online, you can view the livestream at **ahbtt.org.uk/livestream**.

Zoom links are included in our weekly email, but if you would like a link for a particular service or event please email parish@ahbtt.org.uk.

Weekly Email

Sign up to our email to receive our weekly news – go to ahbtt.org.uk, enter your email address in the 'Join our Mailing List' box and click 'Subscribe'.

Byward Kitchen & Bar

The Byward Kitchen is open for drinks, meals and light refreshments from 9am-3.30pm, with indoor and outdoor seating available.

bywardkitchenandbar.com

The Team at All Hallows

CurateThe Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam
Associate PriestThe Revd Dr John Barker
Parish Administrator Michael Griffiths
Education & History Officer Adey Grummet
Director of MusicDavid Cook
Churchwardens Ken Marshall & Di Robertshaw
Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ahbtt.org.uk) Siobhán Martin



**All Hallows by the Tower
with St Dunstan in the East**

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