

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

All-Age Service

21st December 2025



StMARYwithStALBAN

PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

GATHERING TOGETHER

OPENING HYMN ⁽²⁶⁾

Advent 1

1. Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.

Advent 2

2. Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message — challenged,
shaken —
hearts awaken: God is near!

Advent 3

3. John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

Advent 4

4. Mary's gift beyond all telling
we recall today:
Son of God within her dwelling,
born to show the way.
Who could guess the final story?
— cross and glory; Easter Day!

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

All **Amen**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Fourth Candle - *Mary the Mother of Jesus*

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope
and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come
again to fulfil all of God's promises and brings us everlasting peace and joy.

(The first, second and third candles are lit)

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and
glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen
your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for
the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

(We light the Fourth Candle)

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.

SAYING SORRY TO GOD

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

For times when we have failed to see when people may have felt unsafe. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those occasions when we have not listened effectively to those in distress or danger. Christ, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy.

For times when we have seen and heard but have failed to act in order to keep others safe. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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 eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING – *Isaiah 7:10-16, read by a member of the congregation*

God spoke again to Ahaz. This time he said, “Ask for a sign from your God. Ask anything. Be extravagant. Ask for the moon!”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I’d never do that. I’d never make demands like that on God!”

¹³⁻¹⁷ So Isaiah told him, “Then listen to this, government of David! It’s bad enough that you make people tired with your pious, timid hypocrisies, but now you’re making God tired. So the Master is going to give you a sign

anyway. Watch for this: A girl who is presently a virgin will get pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us). By the time the child is twelve years old, able to make moral decisions, the threat of war will be over. Relax, those two kings that have you so worried will be out of the picture. But also be warned: God will bring on you and your people and your government a judgment worse than anything since the time the kingdom split, when Ephraim left Judah. The king of Assyria is coming!

This is the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 1.18–end

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid;

lift up your voices: the Lord is near,

lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

Jacques Berthier

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid;

lift up your voices: the Lord is near,

lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

THE TALK

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

THE SERVICE 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 and security of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN (42)

1. 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.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

All Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

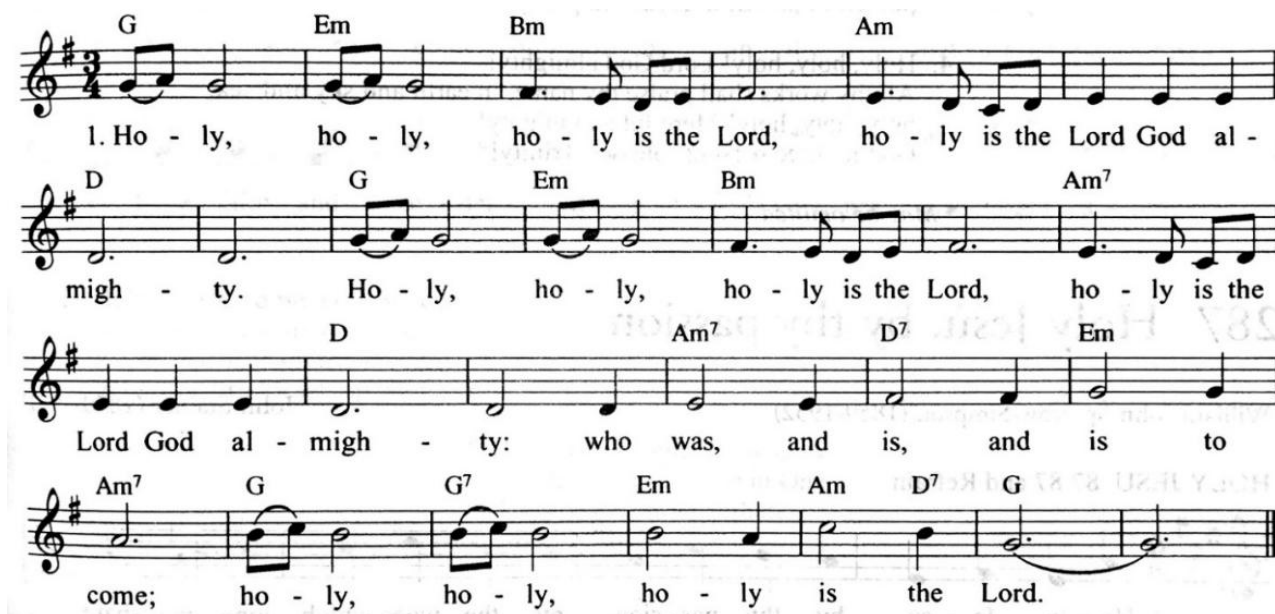
Lift up your hearts.

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 always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:



**All Holy, holy, holy is the Lord; holy is the Lord God almighty.
 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord; holy is the Lord God almighty:
 who was, and is, and is to come; holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
 Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes, blest is he who comes in the
 Lord's name. Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes, blest is he who
 comes in the Lord's name. Hosanna in the heights of heav'n. Blessèd,
 blessèd, blessèd is the Lord**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
 He took the bread and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them,
 saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.*
 After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to
 them, saying: *Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of
 God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.*

Jesus Christ has died. **Jesus Christ has died.**

Jesus Christ is risen. **Jesus Christ is risen.**

Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and
 resurrection, send your Holy Spirit ✠, that we who share these gifts may
 be fed by Christ's body and his blood. Pour your Spirit on us that we may
 love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good
 news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the
 Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

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.

Everyone is welcome to come forward for the Eucharist or a blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

The Notices are given.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

FINAL HYMN (50)

1.The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.

2.The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.

3.Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

4.As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heaven to reign.

5.All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.

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**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The ministers and people depart.