

Fourth Sunday in Advent

22nd December 2024



StMARY *with* StALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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
changes for gladness on that day.

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!

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.'

4. Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
... Cross and glory: empty tomb!

✠ 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.**

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.

The Children's Church leave for their worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn: **for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek: **for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful: **for they shall obtain mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart: **for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers: **for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. 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, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON – *Setting by John Merbecke*

Lord, have mercy upon us. (sung three times)

Christ, have mercy upon us. (sung three times)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (sung three times)

THE COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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

THE FIRST READING – *Micah 5.2–5a, read by a member of the congregation*

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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God

THE CANTICLE - *The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)*

- 1 ✠ **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.**
- 2 **From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**
- 3 **He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.**
- 4 **He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**
- 5 **Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**
- 6 **He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**
- 7 **He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,**
- 8 **The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

THE SECOND READING – *Hebrews 10.5–10, read by the subdeacon*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ 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).’

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And 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

GOSPEL READING - *Luke 1.39–55*

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 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, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And 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,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ 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.**

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 SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Lord in your mercy or Lord, hear us

All Hear our prayer Lord, graciously hear us

Merciful Father,

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

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

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 pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Refrain

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.
Refrain

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.
Refrain

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one, so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

All **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.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All and with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

All It is meet and right so to do.

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:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit ✠, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, 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

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

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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.

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.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion 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.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

1. The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

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

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

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.

All **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

All **Amen.**

and the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.




Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The ministers and people depart.

NOTICES:

Christmas Stocking Appeal	<u>Add your name to the Christmas Stocking!</u> Donate to <i>Building Anew</i> . Follow the QR code and choose the amount, you would like to give. Thank you.	
Christmas Eve 📺 2.00pm 🎥📺 3.30pm 📺 5.00pm	Crib Services come and welcome the arrival of the baby Jesus and his family at a joyful service of carols with the story of the Nativity! Designed for people of all ages and young children are particularly welcome. All three services are identical and last about 45 minutes.	
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass of Christmas 🎥📺 11.30pm. You are welcome to this traditional choral service of Holy Communion, which includes the Christmas Sermon and much loved Christmas-Carols. This service starts in candle-light when we welcome the Christ Child among us.	
Services marked 📺	Holy Communion of the Nativity 8.00am. Welcome to this intimate Holy Communion in the ancient rite of the Book of Common Prayer.	
Services marked 🎥📺 Parish office	Family Eucharist of Christmas 10.00am 📺🎥 All are welcome to join us for this all-age, all carols, all joyful family celebration of Christmas - a wonderful way of embarking upon the perfect holy season. Book ticket for every person attending online via churchsuite or website following this link QR code link Can be viewed live on our YouTube channel. The office will be closed Monday 23rd to Friday 27th December	

<p>Tango Evening Saturday, 18 January 2025</p> <p>Book via  QR code.</p> <p>Quiz Night Saturday, 8th February 2025 Tickets £20.</p> <p>Foreign currency (Notes and coins)</p>	<p><u>Come along and enjoy Father David taking to the floor!</u> <u>Book now for this special evening of music and dancing</u> for all, a fundraiser for Building Anew thanks to Margaret Lochrie and Freedom Tango. Starting with a beautiful 30-minute Tango performance, then join Father David at the Tango taster lesson before trying out your new skills on the dance floor or just having a chat at the bar. £15pp - your ticket includes a free drink on arrival. Doors open from 7.15pm.</p> <p><u>Book your place/s now</u> for this epic Quiz Night with a fun 8-round quiz from famed local Quizmasters Mark & Debby. A tasty fish & chip supper is included in your ticket to keep you fuelled through the rounds. Expect lots of fun whilst challenging your grey matter! No need to book a full table.</p> <p><u>Please keep your foreign currency coming to us</u>, even if it has expired. Please place donations in an envelope (with gift aid info if you can) and in the plate on Sunday or drop into the Parish Office.</p>
<p>TSM concert at SMwSA 7.30pm 4th January 2025</p>	<p><u>New Year in Old Vienna</u> Greet the New Year with the wonderful and enduring music of Johann Strauss II, Franz Lehár, Robert Stolz, Mozart, Schubert and others. Tickets: £18 and conc. £15 Book in advance using QR code or on the door.</p> 
<p>Christmas Day Lunch at Elleray Hall Teddington To attend</p>	<p>The Churches in Teddington are again inviting the elderly and those who are alone on Christmas Day to join them for a traditional Christmas meal with <i>Entertainment, as well as mince pies and carols</i> Contact John below, transport is available if you need it. <u>John Lunt 07503 584532 or CTTChristmas24@gmail.com</u></p>
<p>Change of regular date</p>	<p>Please note the next Pints of View and First Wednesday Group will meet on 8th January. They will then return to their normal pattern.</p>
<p>Silent night; Holy Night!</p>	<p>For a daily reflection throughout <u>Advent</u> and <u>Christmas</u> download the Follow the Star app</p> 

Ways to donate

St Mary with St Alban Building Anew




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