



THE SUNDAY SHEET  
ADVENT 4  
18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.  
An induction loop is provided.*

*Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the stewards/sidespersons who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks*

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear:

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

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe:

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

*John Mason Neale 1818-1866  
tr. from Latin Advent Antiphons  
Tune: Veni Emmanuel*

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world  
**a light no darkness can quench.**

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. **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.**

## ISAIAH 7. 10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

*Please Stand*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

*Phillips Brooks 1835-1893*

*Tune: Forest Green*

## MATTHEW I. 18-25

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.

**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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel's word,  
and obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
sing we of the joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed,  
who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
when beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning high on Calv'ry's tree,  
saw the price of our redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
and, in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
from on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
heav'nly breath of God's own being,  
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the greatest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
and the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heav'nly home:  
virgin mother, Mary blessed,  
raised on high and crowned with grace,  
may your Son, the world's redeemer,  
grant us all to see his face.

*George B. Timms 1910-1997*  
*Tune: Blaenwern*

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Come, O come, Emmanuel,  
you are the way, the truth and the life;  
you are the true vine and living bread.  
Come, Christ our Saviour,  
come to the world which waits for you;  
who are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

Virgin-born, we bow before thee:  
blessed was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, mother meek and mild,  
blessed was she in her child.

Blessed was the breast that fed thee;  
blessed was the hand that led thee;  
blessed was the parents eye that  
watched thy slumbering infancy.

Blessed she by all creation,  
who brought forth the world's Salvation  
blessed they, for ever blest, who  
love thee most and serve thee best.

Virgin-born, we bow before thee:  
blessed was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, mother meek and mild,  
blessed was she in her child.

*Reginald Heber 1783-1826*  
*Tune: Quem Pastores Laudavere*

### 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.**

### FINAL HYMN

Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
sing the wonders that were done,  
when the love of God the Father  
o'er our sin the vict'ry won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
mother of his only Son.

*Hail Mary, hail Mary,  
hail Mary, full of Grace.*

Blessèd were the chosen people  
out of whom the Lord did come,  
blessèd was the land of promise  
fashioned for his earthly home;  
but more blessed was his mother,  
she who bore him in her womb.

Wherefore let all faithful people  
tell the honour of her name,  
let the Church in her foreshadowed  
part in her thanksgiving claim;  
what Christ's mother sang in gladness  
let Christ's people sing the same.

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,  
praise the Saviour and thy Son,  
praise the everlasting Spirit,  
who hath made thee ark and throne;  
o'er all creatures high exalted,  
lowly praise the Three in One.

*Hail Mary, hail Mary,  
hail Mary, full of Grace.*

*Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles 1845-1929  
Tune: Daily Daily*

*CCL No: 961722*

## NOTICES

**Refreshments.** Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**Foodbank.** The Foodbank box is now back in the Parish Church. Donations gratefully received.

**Praying for Growth.** Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer (*card copies are available at the back of the Church*):

*God of Mission,*

*Who alone brings growth to your Church,*

*Send your Holy Spirit to give*

*Vision to our planning,*

*Wisdom to our actions,*

*Joy to our worship,*

*And power to our witness.*

*Help our church to grow in numbers,*

*In spiritual commitment to you,*

*And in service to our local community,*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Coffee Morning.** A huge 'thank you' to all those who works at, and supported, last week's Coffee Morning. Over £400 was raised for Church funds as well as having much valuable fellowship and outreach.

**1<sup>st</sup> January.** No 8am Eucharist that day. Services at 9.30am and 11am as normal.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### **19<sup>th</sup> Monday – O Root of Jesse**

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

5pm Evening Prayer

### **20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – O Key of David**

9am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

7pm Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

### **21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – O Dayspring**

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

5pm Evening Prayer

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – O King of the**

**nations**

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Friday – O Emmanuel**

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

Decorating the Parish Church and making  
Christingles

6pm Choral Evensong

### **24<sup>th</sup> Saturday – CHRISTMAS EVE**

9am Morning Prayer

4pm Christingle & Crib Service *Parish*

*Church*

7pm Nine Lessons & Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

### **25<sup>th</sup> Sunday – CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer

### Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

### Parish Church Website:

[www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)