

**CHARLTON BENEFICE
LIVE-STREAMED EUCHARIST
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We are welcomed to worship by Ally

Opening Hymn - Come, thou long-expected Jesus

THE GATHERING

President - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Liz welcomes us to the service, introduces the theme and lights the fourth Advent Candle

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

President - People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

President - Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Ally leads the Prayer of Preparation

**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

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

We sing the Kyrie

Absolution

President - 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.

Amen.

The Collect

The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – read by Michael

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. *2 Samuel 7 v 1 – 11, 16*

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – read by Barbara

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen. *Romans 16 v 25 – 27*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn to greet the gospel - Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Gospel Reading – read by Thandoh

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1 v 26 – 38

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – preached by Liz

After the sermon, there is a period of quiet reflection.

Let us declare our faith in God.

Affirmation of Faith

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession – led by Naomi

President - Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us be thankful for God's goodness.

*Prayers are offered for the Church of Christ; Creation, human society, the Sovereign,
and those in authority; the local community; those who suffer; and the communion of saints*

*After each prayer ...
Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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

After the final prayer ...

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

President - 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

Offertory Hymn - At the name of Jesus

Preparation of the Table

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.
Amen.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.
You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own.
Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look
for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us he 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross;
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb;
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high;
and we long for his coming in glory.
As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and
blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
Look with favour on your people, and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and
fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with
Luke and Richard, Thomas and all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection in 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.

As our Saviour taught us so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will
be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President - We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

President - 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.**

Prayer before Distribution

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.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'

Communion Hymn - Blessed Bread by Margaret Rizza

**recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their
homes, and edited together**

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

ALLY - NOTICES

Final Prayer

**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**

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn - O come, O come Emmanuel

Our worship is over: our service begins.