

**Charlton Benefice  
Online Worship  
Sunday 18th December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**THE GATHERING**

**Blanca welcomes people to worship.**

Hymn - See she comes in Expectation

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

*The president greets the people and sets out  
the eucharistic theme*

*President* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*(or)* Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Blanca**

**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.**

*PAUSE*

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.**

## **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'. The Collect is said, and all respond **Amen***

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading – read by Blanca**

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Again 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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**New Testament Reading – read by Peter**

**A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*at the end of the reading ...*

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn - O Come O Come Emmanuel**

**Gospel Reading – read by Jean**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**All: Alleluia.**

Reader: 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. 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**

**Sermon – Revd Liz**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Please stand.*

*President* Let us declare our faith in God.

*Form A* **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.**

**Prayers of Intercession – led by Deborah**

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

*After each prayer ...*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

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

*After the final prayer ...*

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

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candles**

### **Advent 4**

*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!**

## **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 – Christ Sophia**

#### **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 all  
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.**

**Lords Prayer**

**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.**

**Breaking of the bread**  
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**

### **Agnus Dei**

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.**

**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 choir sings Mary did you Know?**

**Communion hymn – Hark the Glad Sound**

**Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion  
or other suitable prayer is said.*

## **Notices**

## **Final Prayer**

*Blanca*      **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 BLESSING AND SENDING OUT**

*President*    **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 – The Lord will Come**