



**ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PF**  
**20 December 2020 ADVENT 4 Year B 20/51**

Welcomers: Shirley Chinery  
 Readers: Norah Hodge, Ros Ford  
 Interceder: Ken Thompson  
 Cantor: Isabel Nisbet  
 AV editor: N/A  
 Hymns:  
 Entry: L352 For Mary, Mother  
 Gradual: L350 My soul proclaims  
 Offertory: AM318 Ye who own  
 P-Communion: AM27 Colours of day  
 Final: AM32 Come thou Redeemer

**Collect: God most high, you send glad tidings to the lowly and peace to the humble of heart; form us into a holy people so that, at the coming of your Son, we may recognise him as Lord and serve him as our King. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



**MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS**

There are million of images and pictures of Jesus' mother. Most of them are almost entirely unreal but this one really caught my attention: she is young, with a mix of eager expectation - and uncertainty. And how could it be otherwise?

It was all very well for Gabriel to state how God had chosen her to be the mother of his Son but how was she possibly going to explain the news to her parents, to Joseph and to any number of inquisitive friends and neighbours?

As we listen to the familiar story we cannot but think 'but what has this to do with me?' God isn't going to ask me to do anything half as dramatic as this - is he?!

And there is the miracle of Christmas in a nutshell. Because it was to this most ordinary family that God planned the

greatest possible adventure, events too amazing and far-reaching to be understood. And God placed them in the hands of a teenage girl, not yet married.

I find this both daunting and exciting. It reminds us that God does not entrust his plans just to the rich and the intelligent; he chooses ordinary people - like you and me - to do extraordinary things and achieve remarkable results. All we have to do is, like Mary, to be attentive: listening out for his quiet voice which whispers his plans for us and for his world, if only we are prepared to listen. Even in the busyness of this week may we also say, 'be it unto me according to your word...'



**CAROL SERVICE** It was a great delight to welcome Ros Ford and her colleagues from Epiphoni to sing our Carol Service on Sunday night. The carols were stunning and included several modern classics like Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium and Philip Stopford's Lully lulla. If you would like to hear the service the professional video is available on YouTube which you can also access via the St James Islington Facebook page. The collection raised £200 for the ARC Food Bank.

**THANK YOU** Someone once described churches as 'schools of kindness'. We have every reason to think of St James' like that as, once again, we reflect on all the acts of generosity, large and small, that surround the work here. From the gang who spent half an hour putting up and decorating the Christmas tree to those who, week in and week out, maintain our services and reach out into the community; from those who have gone the extra mile with our music and with the demands of our AV during the pandemic, those of our officers who turn up so faithfully and those who have undertaken special projects; those who have increased their giving in 2020 to help us through this very challenging time and those who do more than they are paid for: to each and every one of you our very real thanks. We will never have 'too much' but such is the depth of our very varied church community that we always manage to find the right people at the right time when we need them. And it is often the little things that make all the difference, the words of gratitude and the quiet helping hand that make life easier. 2020 has been tough (but much tougher for many others) but I think our foundations are as strong as ever. God has been, and will be, with us.

**AV OFF** We are sorry that due to an equipment failure, no services can be recorded until mid January when a new webcam system is installed.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Rebecca and Rob Holtom on the arrival of Alice, a sister for Evelyn. Alice was born on 18th November - but it took a while to choose a name!

**ORGAN PROJECT** Still no official confirmation of the date for the Consistory Court despite reassurances...

Sun 20 **ADVENT 4** 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 Tues 8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass.  
 Wed 10am Mass.  
 Thurs **6pm CRIB SERVICE** and **CHRISTINGLE. 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS** for Christmas.  
 Friday 8am Mass (Fr Stephen). **10am Christmas morning House Party Mass.**

Sun 27 **HOLY FAMILY** 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS (Fr Stephen).

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 20 **ADVENT 4** Paula, Gianni and Giandre Morrison; Bill Murphy  
 Mon 21 **DEL Advent 4** Jade Nicholson; John, Charlie and Henry Green  
 Tues 22 **Feria** Isabel Nisbet; Joyce Owusu; Toni Parker; Jessica and Tayah Phillips  
 Wed 23 **Feria** Nick, Matilda and Barnaby Powell; Rosemary Ross  
 Thurs 24 **Christmas Eve** John, Hilary, and Laura Roden and Hope Dixey  
 Fri 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY** Kerry, Chris and Ben Sabine; Helen Schofield  
 Sat 26 **St Stephen** Sam, Joe, Charlie and Isla Seabrook; Susan and Eric Sorensen  
 Sun 27 **HOLY FAMILY** Nick, Isabelle, Maxwell and Leon Sharples; Vera Taggart

**PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome**

**BIRTHDAYS** Very many Happy Returns to Maria Burniston, Sunday School coordinator and Chair of the Hall Management Group, who celebrates her 60th birthday on Tuesday, a day she shares with Holly Campbell who will be 18. On Saturday we wish Barry Jenkins a very happy birthday, also remembering Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe who will be 42 that day.

**SICK** Christopher Browne, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Geoff Turner and Melanie Toogood.

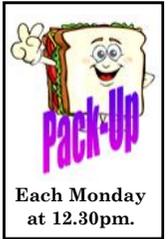
**ANNIVERSARIES** Today: Aveland Nightingale (2003); 21st: David Humphreys (2015); 22nd: Angela Taylor, (1996), Marion Burniston (2009), Basil Garsed (2014) and Joe Ryan (2017).

**INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS** In the US: Suzanne Smith, Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. In Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.

**PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE** Our prayers continue for **Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe** in the hope that some kind of formula can allow her to return to the UK as soon as possible.



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PARISH MASS  
for Advent 4  
Sunday December 20th

PARISH MASS for ADVENT 4 - Year B

Entry Hymn: **L352 For Mary, Mother of our Lord** [t AM569i Paderborn]

*Hail Mary, our icon of trust in God's word:  
in faith you conceived, and God's life in you stirred.  
O woman of wisdom, now show us the way:  
let our hearts be open to God day by day.*

*We pray you, O woman of all women blest  
to care for the homeless, the poor and oppressed.  
Be with us, your people, in joy and in pain;  
be near us to cheer us till heaven we gain.*

*To God, your creator, glad hymns with us raise.  
to Jesus, your Son, and the Spirit give praise.  
And pray for the churches, that all may be one:  
on earth as in heaven, may God's will be done!* (Words: Delores Dufner)

**The Greeting**

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

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

*Sit. After a brief introduction the 4th Advent Candle is lit*

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 also to share in your great work of bringing health and healing to your broken world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Advent Song: **AM26 Advent Candles** [t Angel Voices]  
*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!*

**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 your children who long for your coming. Amen.**

*Kyrie Confession for Advent 4:*

*Advent: 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:*

Heavenly Father, you raised up the humble in heart:  
give us the humility to confess our sins:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you grew quite naturally in the womb of your mother:  
be planted in our hearts  
and increase our awareness of your presence with us:  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary so that she could become  
the Mother of God:  
help us to give our lives entirely to your service.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The Absolution follows.*

*Collect:* **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.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

*1st Reading:* (2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16) 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Gradual:* **L340 My soul proclaims, you mighty God** [t AM587 Amazing Grace]

***My soul proclaims you, mighty God,  
my spirit sings your praise.  
You look on me, you lift me up,  
and gladness fills my days.***

***All nations now will share my joy;  
your gifts you have outpoured.  
Your little ones you have made great;  
the weak you have restored.***

***For those who love your holy name,  
your mercy will not die.  
Your strong right arm puts down the proud  
and lifts the lowly high.***

***You fill the hungry with good things,  
the rich you send away.  
The promise made to Abraham  
will last to endless days.***

***Then let all peoples praise our God,  
the Father and the Son,  
the Spirit blest who lives in us,  
while endless ages run.***

(Words: Anne Carter)

*2nd Reading:* (Romans 16: 25-end) 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*A short time of silence follows as we recall all we have heard so far.*

Let us stand and welcome the Gospel.

### Gospel Acclamation

*We say together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia**

### Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

(St Luke 1: 26-38) 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **SERMON FOR ADVENT 4 | 20.12.20**

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; St Luke 1: 26-38

*It will be so much more boring, said a leading American TV anchorman recently, when President Trump finally leaves the White House. How will we fill up all those hours without his stream of Twitter messages?! To which one of his guests replied, Ah, but there may be some space for truth!*

Big people, male and female, have always stalked the corridors of power – and they always will. We could have fun asking which personalities have filled your air-time this year? And not just so-called personalities but also the people who have held your attention over the last year? Who are the people who have interested you, made you think, touched you with special kindness – or demanded a lot from you? Who are the 'little people' without whom you could not have got through the year? Who has most taken you by surprise in a way that has made your life happier? Who has changed your mind?

In a very circuitous web-trawl – the kind of thing that can be so interesting when you have a few minutes to spare - I came across an article by the political commentator Peter Hitchens. Now I don't agree with much of what he says but his writing is always fun. And he was looking back, you may well remember, to the big demonstration that closed St Paul's Cathedral back in 2011. Let me give you just a taste of his description of the people who were camping outside the west door:



*Every crank, dingbat and fanatic in Southern England has found his or her way to the camp by the steps of St Paul's Cathedral. Given time, every faddist in Europe will arrive. There are already plenty of North American accents.*

*Whatever your cause, it has a pavilion here, especially if it is a lost cause. The poor Kurds are represented. There's a Buddhist shrine next to an arrow marking the direction of Mecca. Che Guevara, that old mass murderer, has his image on display. There's propaganda against the 'persecution of sex-workers'. The Socialist Workers Party have a stall that looks a little too neat and tidy for the occasion. In short, it is a chaotic, self-righteous festival of drivel...*

Giles Fraser, who often does Thought for the Day on Radio 4, and who was both a former tutor in philosophy at Wadham College Oxford and Canon Chancellor of St Pauls' at the time, was later fired for trying to make friends with the Occupy protestors camped outside the Cathedral doorstep. Part of his reflections included this tweet: *And BTW I don't think the Red Flag is anywhere near as revolutionary as the Magnificat.*

The Magnificat, the words of today's Gospel, said to have been spoken by Mary when she heard she was to be mother of the new born Jesus. While no one pretends they were her actual words, St Luke follows the classic tradition of summarising a whole life-time of experience in a stunning poem that has become probably the greatest hymn of the Christian Church for 2000 years, recited or sung as part of every service of Evensong.

*So what makes the Magnificat so revolutionary? He hath shewed strength with his arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.*

Fraser is right; it is a political manifesto – the thinking of a teenage girl with no experience of life who was about to have a baby out of wedlock in a society where such things were barely tolerated.

She looked beyond herself, beyond the present time and the current world order - to a time when it was the weak and the poor who would set the agenda. Hitchen's response to Giles Fraser was wholly predictable and fitted in with his support for capital punishment and his opposition to same sex marriage: *couldn't someone point out that this was a promise of eternal justice, not a programme for government.*

But is it, is it really?

Is it unreasonable to seek to kick the pedestal from under the feet of 'the proud' and 'the mighty', those who think they have a right to govern and an entitlement to be heard across the many mass media platforms that exist today? Whatever we might think of the causes represented outside St Paul's and the style of their protest, can't we at least feel the frustration of the many who have a vision for a more just and equal society - but who find themselves squeezed out of the airwaves and the debating chambers by big and articulate people who simply have no time for those trying to explore alternative ways of running things?

Mary stands in her house. It is not a house of any consequence, anymore than she is a person of consequence. And yet on her shoulders lies the real future: *You will give birth to a Son and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.*

All the time we are, as Christians, involved in the Tale of Two Cities, the one we see with our eyes – involving our current politics and economics, apparently as solid as a rock: the one on which we are so dependent.

But there is also the other city, the city of Mary, of Mary and of countless generations of faithful Christian men and women, who see beyond the power driven, cynical and materialistic world – those able to draw down from heaven the strength to work for a society based on justice, peace, compassion – and truth.

Perhaps the saddest part of Peter Hitchen's article is his last paragraph: *Contrast, he writes, the great classical majesty of St Paul's Cathedral - one of man's most successful attempts to combine reason, science and hope - with the chaotic, self-righteous festival of drivel outside. Yet there's no doubt which of the two is closer to the mood of the modern world, more's the pity.*

I am afraid that this looks like someone who has given up: as if there is no alternative to the mighty retaining their thrones and the poor lying at their gate. But I believe he is wrong. It may take us a while and the dead ends may be many: but the human spirit seeking change, freedom and fairness for all, is as powerful as ever. Why: because it flows directly from God's ability to bring life out of death. As the story tells us, even Elizabeth's old age was no barrier to her becoming a mother. *For with God nothing is impossible to those whose whole outlook proclaims 'the greatness of the Lord.'*

Stand

**An Advent Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**Though he was divine, Jesus did not cling to equality with God but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has raised him on high and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Intercessions**

Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world through the extraordinary vision of Mary your mother. We thank you for her willingness to accept all the challenges you made of her. Bless all those who will become parents for the first time today. May they be filled with joy at the precious responsibility they have received. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we prepare to celebrate your birth once more, help us to focus on the love you came to bring. In a world of inequality, stress and violence, strengthen the hearts and minds of all who give generously to those without homes, friends and all who feel particularly sad at this time of the year. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We ask your reconciling love, Lord, to fill our nation at this very challenging time. We pray for all those coping with the outcome of the Tier 4 restrictions: for the isolated and lonely, for the sick and the hospitalised and for all working in our hospitals. We pray too for Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe and for all separated from their loved ones this Christmas. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our Church and pray for its ministry throughout this Christmas season. We ask your blessing on each of our special services, that the joy and hope of our faith will shine out in all that we say and do. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

In a moment of quiet, we offer you, Lord, the names of all those who need our prayers today.... Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lastly, we commend to your love all those whose memories we recall this week: Aveland Nightingale, David Humphreys, Angela Taylor, Marion Burniston, Basil Garsed, and Joe Ryan.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Mary the Mother of God, St James, St Peter and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, to your un-failing love:

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

### The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: **AM318 Ye who own the faith**

[t Daily, daily]

*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 victory won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
mother of his only Son.*

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

*Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,  
praise thy Saviour, God's own Son,  
praise the everlasting Spirit,  
by whose power new life was won;  
thou art Mary, high exalted,  
servant of the Three in One. Hail Mary...*

(Words: Vincent Coles, adapted)

Remain standing

### At the Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my friends, that our thanksgiving may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice from our hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of  
your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of  
Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Remain standing

### Eucharistic Prayer E

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.**

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 watchful in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with the angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends,  
and taking bread, shared it with them and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took a cup of wine.  
Again he gave you thanks, shared it and said:  
Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, as we remember all that Jesus did,  
we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
We set before you the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

We proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
Rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth,  
and your kingdom comes.

Look with favour on your people; gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary the Mother of God, St James, St Peter  
and all who stand before you in earth and heaven  
to feast at your table in heaven,  
so that we may worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

### Fraction

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in the one bread.**

### Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
Grant us peace.**

### Invitation

Draw near with faith, receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which  
was broken for you, and his blood which was shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in  
your hearts with thanksgiving; for this is the Lamb of God who takes  
away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his Sup-  
per.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word  
and I shall be healed.**

Communion Hymn: **AM27 Colours of day**

[t. Light up the fire]

*Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
the sun has come up, the night is behind.  
Go down to the city into the street,  
and let's give the message to the people we meet.  
So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
open the door, let Jesus return.  
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
tell the people of Jesus, let his love flow.*

*Go through the park, on into the town;  
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.  
The light of the world is risen again;  
the people of darkness are needing a friend.*

**Open your eyes, look into the sky.  
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.  
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
but Jesus is living, his Spirit is near.**

(Words: Sue McClellan, John Paculabo, Keith Rycroft)

### Post Communion

The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'.

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

### Community Notices and Blessing

May Christ the Light of the world, shine in your hearts and lives, so that you may be filled with his joy and love and peace; and the blessing...

### Dismissal

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

Final Hymn: **AM32 Come, thou redeemer of the earth** [t Puer Nobis]

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit., thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
and darkness glow with new-born light,  
no more shall night extinguish day,  
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, virgin born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

(Words: St Ambrose of Milan trans. JM Neale)



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2020**  
THURSDAY 24th Christmas Eve  
6pm Crib Service and Christingle  
11.30pm Candle-lit Christmas Midnight Mass  
  
FRIDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY  
8am Mass  
10am Our annual Christmas house party  
Mass with carols and games.



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.