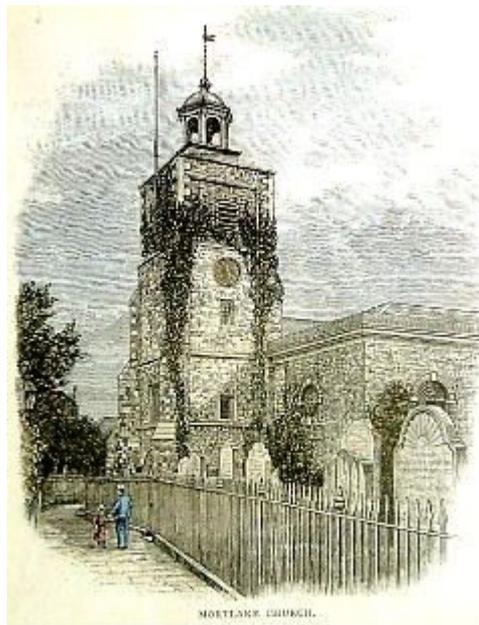


## St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake



A service for the  
2nd Sunday before Advent

15th November 2020 at 10am

The Greeting

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

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*Informal words of welcome are said.*

Opening Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
Pleasures pure and undefiled,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For thy Church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

### The Prayers of Penitence

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

*Silence is kept*

Where we have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;  
Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

Where we have seen the ill-treatment of others  
and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

Where we have condoned evil and dishonesty  
and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

Where we have not loved you with all our heart,  
nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

**forgive us our sin.**

### Absolution

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

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will  
one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1.7,12–18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that  
time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who  
rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,  
'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be  
plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they

shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8 (sung by members of St Mary's choir)

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 25.14–30

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

Jesus told another parable: 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*After the sermon a short period of silent reflection is kept.*

Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers conclude with*

Merciful Father,

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

The Lord's Prayer *(we sit or kneel)*

*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 forever. Amen**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace

And builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Anthem: (sung by members of the St Mary's Choir)

Spiritual Communion

Loving Lord, we know that you are with us wherever we are. Since we cannot at this moment receive you in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, we ask you to open our eyes to your presence now in these quiet moments and in our daily lives, leading and guiding us in the week ahead. May we know that though we are for a time physically separated from one another, we are united in your Spirit and we can never be separated from you.

**Amen**

*A time of silence follows as we open our hearts to God.*

Closing Prayers

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

**Eternal God,  
our beginning and our end,  
accompany us in this week's journey.  
Dawn on our darkness,  
open our eyes to praise you for your creation  
and strengthen us for the challenges which lie before us.  
Take us and use us to share with others  
the love we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,  
material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The  
Archbishops' Council 2000.  
Hymns, where reproduced, are used by permission,  
CCLI Licence No 412745, Streaming Licence 106719. Calamus Licence 2173.