

St Mary the Virgin Mortlake

20th December 2020
Advent 4

Making Room
Holy Communion – Worship for All

THE GATHERING

Welcome by a Churchwarden of St Mary's

Hymn: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell b1957 © OCP Publications

The Greeting (President: Canon Ann Nickson)

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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Opening Sentences

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Come, O Lord, and send us your light.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Come and bring the light of God.

Come and walk among us.

Be our Saviour and our Friend.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Come to bring us your peace.

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle

We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying 'Yes' to God's challenge accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future

God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope

Confession (We sit or kneel)

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The choir sing

Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy
Christ Have Mercy ,Christ Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Collect (Prayer)

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.**

Prayers After Communion

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**

THE DISMISSAL

Notices

Blessing (We stand)

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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn:

Like a candle flame
Flickering small in our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

*God is with us, alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia
Alleluia!*

Stars and angels sing
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine
From our lives, Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame
Of his holy fire

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Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

*If you would like to support the work of this historic church
a contactless payment point is available
at the door as you leave.*

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 Mary,
the mother of our Lord, 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.

Silence is kept. We sit or kneel for:

The Lord's 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 (sung):

**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**

Giving of Communion

The president invites the people to receive Communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God, to the glory of God
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father**

*During Communion, the band will play "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly
Light" by JS Bach (1685-1750).*

Hymn

Into the darkness of this world;
Into the shadows of the night;
Into this loveless place You came,
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain
And made these hearts Your home.
Into the darkness once again,
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with Your love to make us whole.
Come with Your light to lead us on.
Driving the darkness far from our souls.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls;
Into these heavy hearts of stone;
Shine on us now Your piercing light,
Order our lives and souls aright
By grace and love unknown.
Until in You our hearts unite,
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come with Your love...etc

O Holy Child, Emmanuel;
Hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place,
Till all the earth declares Your praise,
And Your great mercies own.
Now let Your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come with Your love...etc.

Come in Your glory
Take Your place.
Jesus, the Name above all names.
We long to see You face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Words and Music by Maggi Dawn
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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading Luke 1 39-55

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When

Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

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

Talk/Activity Canon Ann Nickson

Prayers for Ourselves and Other People

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

We exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The gifts of God for the people of God, to the glory of God. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer F

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 singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, Oh blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest, 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.

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.