



St EDWARD

KING & MARTYR

24 December 2023 / Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St Edward's!

We hope you are blessed by your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again. There is an Induction Loop in the Nave for those using a hearing aid and wheelchair access available at the West door. The toilet is available in the vestry, with an additional parent and child area for those with infants and toddlers if needed. Children are always welcome in service and will find books and activities in the back of the church.

‘Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.’

Isaiah 7.14

Hymn 26 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Welcome & Greeting

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

And also with you.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has never put it out.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'. So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Confession *(Please sit or kneel)*

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 484 – Long Ago Prophets Knew

New Testament Lesson (Romans 16.25-27)

25 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 26 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 – 27 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.**



Magnificat (Lk. 1.46-55) *(Please remain seated as the canticle is sung)*

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Gospel *(We stand as we welcome the Gospel)*

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 St Luke (1.26-38). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34 Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 35 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. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.' 38 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 'Mary, The Highly Favoured One' – Mark Scarlata

Affirmation of Faith *(We stand to declare our faith together)*

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, Who created all things: **For by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son who was slain:

(cont'd overleaf)

For with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: **The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *(Please sit or kneel for our intercessions)*

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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

The Peace *(We stand to share the peace)*

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 360 – For Mary, Mother Of Our Lord

The 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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly king, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way of salvation. So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Edward and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through 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.**

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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.

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.**

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.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Giving of Communion

(All baptized believers are invited to receive communion here. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, with their hands downwards on the rail. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please raise one finger.)

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 422 – Tell Out My Soul *(Please stand)*

Notices

Blessing

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; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.' **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

Notices

Upcoming Services:

Monday 25 December - 10am Christmas Day Service

Friday 29 December - BCP Morning Prayer

Sunday 31 December - 11am Holy Communion Service

Parish Giving: We are grateful for all of your gifts! Offerings may be given during the services or for Standing Orders, via BACS [**SORT: 20-17-19 / ACCT #: 30851477 – "St Edwards Vestry Account"**]. There is also a SumUp machine by the door of the church for contactless giving: Power on, enter an amount, and tap your card.

Contact Details

St Edward, King & Martyr Parish
Church, Peas Hill, Cambridge, CB2 3PP
Web: www.stedwards.cambridge.org
Email: stedwardsassistant@gmail.com

Church Staff

Vicar-Chaplain: Revd Dr Mark Scarlata
Associate Vicar: Revd Dr Matthias Grebe
Church Warden: Dr Paul Anderson
Church Administrator: Mr Peter Elliott

*(Material from Common Worship is copyright, The Archbishops' Council 2000.
Used by permission. For further enquiries please contact stedwardsassistant@gmail.com)*