




**17th December 2023**  
Third Sunday in Advent



**www.ParishofBaildon.uk**  
 Parish of Baildon

**Vicar:** Revd Canon Sandra Benham: 01274 589005 sandrabenham@btinternet.com  
**Associate Priest:** Revd Ruth Yeoman: 01274 588322 ruthjyeoman@hotmail.com  
**Parish Office/St John's Hall Bookings:** 01274 594941 office@ParishofBaildon.uk  
**St James's Bookings:** StJamesHub@ParishofBaildon.uk

## **Services in the Parish over Christmas**

### **Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

10.00am—Joint Parish Communion Service at St James's Church  
4.00pm—Crib Service at St John's Church  
11.30pm—Midnight Communion at St John's Church

### **Sunday 25th December**

8.30am—Christmas Communion at St John's Church  
9.30am—Christmas Communion at St Hugh's Church  
10.00am—Christmas Communion at St John's Church

## **Hymn**

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

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

**All Amen.**

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

**All and also with you.**

The advent of the Lord is near.

**All New light dawning where there has been darkness.**

The advent of the Lord is near.

**All New hope reigning where there has been death and despair.**

The advent of the Lord is near.

**All New light, new hope, new life for all creation.**

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of  
darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Romans 13:12

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**All 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**

## **The Collect**

**Reading—**Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-end

*At the end of the reading please respond*

For the gift of your holy word

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation,  
in God I trust in God I trust.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## The Creed

We say together in faith

**All 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:

**All for by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

**All 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:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!' Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*At end of the prayers we say together*

Merciful Father,

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

## Prayers of Penitence

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess  
that we have sinned in thought and word and deed. We have not  
loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to  
amend what we are and direct what we shall be; that we may do  
justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you our God. Amen**

May God in mercy and truth forgive you and set you free. Take hold of this forgiveness and be at peace.

**All Amen.**

The children join us from their worship and notices are given.

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

Last Sunday we the lit the Candles of Hope and Peace.

*The first two candles of hope and peace are lit again.*

## Bible reading

*The second candle is lit*

Let us pray

**All** Lord Jesus, your servant John the Baptist called people to prepare for your coming by caring for one another. Give us willing hearts to reach out to all people in need with your love and compassion.  
Amen.

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **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.

**All** and also with you.

Let us a sign of the peace with one another.

### **Hymn**

**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.**

*Christ, be our light ....*

**Longing for food, many are hungry,  
longing for water, many still thirst.**

**Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.**

*Christ, be our light .....*

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
longing for warmth, many are cold  
make us your building, sheltering others  
walls made of living stone.**

*Christ, be our light .....*

**Many the gifts, many the people  
many the hearts that yearn to belong  
let us be servants to one another  
making your kingdom come**

*Christ, be our light .....*

## Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**All Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**All Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond*

**All 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.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper*

Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond*

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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,

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**All 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**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

During the distribution after the anthem please join in with the hymn

**Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
your kingdom increase!**

**Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.**

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

**Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned –  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.**

*God of the poor . . .*

**Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice  
burns brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.**

*God of the poor . . .*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Post communion prayer is said*

**All Generous God, you have fed us at your heavenly table. Set us on fire with your Spirit that when Christ comes again we may shine like lights before his face; who with you and the Spirit lives for ever. Amen.**

The children share their work.

## **Hymn**

**Lo, he comes in clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinner slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:**

**Alleluia!**

**God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty,  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree.  
deeply wailing  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.**

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **NOTICES**

**WEDNESDAY COFFEE** - Wednesday 20th December is our final session, we re-open on 3rd January 2024.

**DOROTHY DENTON** – Dorothy’s funeral will take place at St James’ Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm. Our prayers are with Paul and David, other members of the family and friends.

**WEDNESDAY MIDDAY COMMUNION** - at St James’ Church is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Everyone is welcome.

**SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER** - There will be a joint parish service at St Hugh's Church at 10am on New Year's Eve. Everyone is welcome.

**WINTER CHARITABLE GIVING** - Shelter supports people fighting for their right to a safe home. More people are struggling in temporary accommodation or being forced onto the streets. When making a BACS donation to Shelter through the Parish Bank Account please quote the reference SHELTER

**CAROL SINGING** - Enjoy singing? Why not join us Saturday 23rd December 10 am - 12noon in the porch at Co-op to raise money for Shelter. Come for as long as you can and swell our numbers!

**STICK WITH LOVE** - Rejoicing in every tongue, every tribe, every nation.’ Bishop Arun Arora, Bishop for the Leeds area of our Diocese is the author of this new book. I will be at The Halfway House, 20.00 - 21.00 on Tuesday 19 December if you would like to meet up for a drink and a chat about this book.  
Ruth