



14th December 2025
Third Sunday in Advent



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f Parish of Baildon

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Hymn

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, the Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.**

**That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.**

Opening responses

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of 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 James 5.7-10

At the end of the reading please respond

For the gift of your holy word

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Wait for the Lord, his day is near

Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart

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 Matthew

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

To the words 'Father hear us' would you please respond '**and prepare us to meet you**'. *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 lit the second candle for the prophets. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, we will light the Candle of Love as we remember John the Baptist.

Bible reading

The third 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 share 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

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All Amen.

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.**

The president and people receive communion. Everyone is very welcome to receive the bread and wine whether you've been baptised or confirmed. Please come forward at the direction of the Church Wardens. For reason of hygiene the Church of England does not allow intinction (dipping bread into the wine). If you don't feel able to take the wine from the common cup today please just receive the bread, which will be the full presence of Christ for you. At the distribution of the bread and wine these words will be said

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life

The communicant replies **Amen**

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

**Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice!**

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.

Hymn

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise, my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace (x3)**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace. (x3)**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free; he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me. (x3)**

**He speaks; and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive, new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe. (x3)**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ; your loosened tongues employ
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy! (x3)**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honours of your name. (x3)**

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 Please note that our last Wednesday Coffee at St James's will be Wednesday 17th December. We will then start again on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

THANK YOU My sincerest thanks to everyone who helped make last weekend go so well. So many people gave of their time and energy - without every single one of you the weekend would not have gone so smoothly. I will let you know the funds raised later but thank you.

HEARTS AND HANDS I am delighted to tell you that the previous art workshop has been extended into 2026. This is due to the huge success of the project this last year. We will restart on FRIDAY 9th January 2026 at St James's - 12.30 lunch and 13.00 workshop for 7 weeks. See posters for more details. Loraine.

SOCIAL SATURDAY 10th January 2026. 10.00-12.00 at St James's, join us for a morning of fun and games this time. How about a Beetle Drive, or a game of scrabble or cards, or maybe just a chat with friends over a coffee?

CENTREPOINT is our charity of the month for December. Thousands of young people will be facing homelessness alone this winter. Centrepont is dedicated to ending youth homelessness. Once referred to Centrepont, instead of worrying about what to eat or where to sleep, a young person can start to put their lives back together, safe in the knowledge that Centrepont will be there for as long as they need them. You can make a

donation towards the work of Centrepont by BACS through the parish bank account using the reference CENTREPT.

SING for CENTREPOINT at CHRISTMAS! Do join us for carol singing at Baildon Co-op to raise money for Centrepont which is our charity of the month for December. We meet on Saturdays 13th and 20th December from 10.00am. Where? Come for even ten minutes to support the work of Centrepont by singing well-known carols!

REFLECTIONS FOR 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS If you would like to take a booklet which gives reflections for the 12 days from Christmas Day until Epiphany these are available at the back of church. These are also available using the QR code which can be found on the bookmark so you can access the reflections that way. We are delighted to say that we can offer these booklets without charge.

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER There will be a joint Parish Holy Communion Service at St James's Church at 10am.

CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE there will be an opportunity to sing some carols in the village on Friday 19th December at 7pm outside Café Bar Twelve. Everyone is welcome.

JULIAN MEETING The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th December at the home of Ann Kinder at 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

CRAFT THROUGH WORSHIP During December we will be thinking about 'Possessions (economy)' as part of our reflections on culture. We will be gathering at St James' Church on Sunday 14th December at 6pm for a time to be together, sharing in conversation and a little crafting, over some festive refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Please email Ruth on ruthjyeoman@hotmail.com if you would like to know more.

Christmas Events and Services

Sunday 14th December

4.00pm Messy Church

Sunday 21st December

6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service at St John's Church

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

4.00pm Crib Service at St John's Church

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St John's Church

Wednesday 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

10.15am Christmas Communion at St James's