



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent 17th December 2023

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.



During Advent we wait for the coming of Christ, not only in the story of the Nativity, but in the here and now. We wait for the coming of God's Reign on earth, when peace and justice will be a reality. The concepts of Advent are often difficult as they speak of judgement and end times. Equally they talk of new life beyond our understanding. As we come

to this Advent Season, let us not be afraid of our waiting, or of the uncertainty it may raise. Rather we are invited in our prayer and meditation to call out 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come!'

*Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 280 – **Hail to the Lord's Anointed***

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The President will introduce the service

As we begin the New Christian Year and the start of Advent we come before God with our prayers of confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept

**Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
and to these my brothers and sisters,
I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness
of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise
me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We sing together.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

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.**

*We turn to the Advent Wreath which helps us to mark our journey through Advent. There are five candles, one for each week. On this Third Sunday we remember **John the Baptist** who foretold the coming Christ. We light the **pink candle** on the third Sunday which represents joy or rejoicing (Gaudete) and reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from repentance and toward celebration.*

*As we turn to the Advent wreath, we sing the Third verse and chorus of **Hymn 452***

We light the first candle then pray:

People of God: return!

You are called to be God's own.

From the mountains announce the good news.

God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways.

We are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before the collect.

God for whom we watch and wait,

you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,

to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right,

with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word *(please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.*

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). So declares Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry, after reading the opening verses of this lection (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19) before a crowd of people gathered in the synagogue at Nazareth.

The speaker of Isaiah 61:1-4 has been anointed for a mission of radical proclamation. Their commission is, first and foremost, to bring good news to the poor (61:1). Jesus quotes this passage from Isaiah in the first sermon Luke attributes to Jesus, this verbal correspondence suggests that these verses from Isaiah have something to teach us about the character of the Christian gospel itself.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

Paul's exhortation at the end of 1 Thessalonians captures some of the wisdom he received from Christ, about which he is reminding the congregation to whom he is writing. The use of the imperative verbs throughout this exhortation underscores the urgency with which Paul is writing.

Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice!" At the beginning of his letter, Paul reminds the congregation to receive what they have been taught with

joy (1:6), so as to live as examples for their neighbours. This joy, signified by the pink candle (Gaudete = rejoice) on the Advent wreath, is meant to spill out beyond the season into the entire Christian life and thus throughout the whole liturgical year.

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We sing our **Gradual Hymn 319 – How lovely on the mountains** during which the Gospel is processed – please stand.*

If last week we met the camel hair wearing, locust and honey eating John the Baptist, this week we do a 180 degree turn and meet a whole different John.

The John of John's Gospel is never called the Baptist. Rather, this is John the Witness. While he is described as doing some general baptizing here and there, a careful read of John's story of Jesus' baptism reveals that John does not baptize Jesus. His primary role is not as one who baptizes but one who testifies to the light coming into the world, a very human witness to a cosmic event. God is about ordering a new creation, a new presence of light in the world but it necessitates a fellow human to point to its presence, otherwise, human as we are, we might not see it. That human is John.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.
A member of the congregation will lead these*

After the biddings we pray

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers

Merciful Father,

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament (please stand)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in
heaven and glory in the highest.

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

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We share the peace with those around us in a way we are comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.

*We sing Hymn 589 – **On Jordan’s bank the Baptist cry** omitting verse 4 during which a collection is taken.*

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**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.**

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**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.**

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

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

*We receive communion, during which we listen to Dona Nobis Pacem. All who would normally receive are welcome to receive here. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip)).** You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. At the end of communion the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:*

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

We listen to notices about our community life.

We receive God's blessing for the week ahead.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

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**

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

*We join in our **final hymn 767 – Thou, whose almighty word** during which the clergy depart.*

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Laurence's Larder

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In November we raised £1869. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

We are also going contactless! From this week, visitors to St Anne's, or even regulars will be able to donate using a contactless point at

the back of church. For regular members, a Standing Order or Envelope is best as it helps us plan.

The funds we raise support the Mission work of St Anne's, from ensuring worship takes place to provision of Playgroup, tea and chat, bereavement support and care of the local community. We receive no funds external to support what we do, we need to raise all we need to continue our work in Queen's Park and beyond.



While it is now only one week to Christmas – Advent continues until lunchtime on Christmas Eve! Though our focus in the last week turns more to the joy and hope for the coming of the Christ Child in our midst – Emmanuel!.

Thank you First

Thank you to everyone who helped with Wreath making on 9th December – a special thank you to Rhona for all her hard work!!!

Thank you too, for all who helped with Christmas Parties on Friday!!

Still to come...

Carols by Candlelight

with Queen's Park Singers— TODAY Sunday 17th December at 4pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies! Helpers please.

Monday Lunchtimes during Advent

18th December at 12noon we will be offering an Advent reflection with Mass in the Church. There will be a weekly theme using music, images and silence.

Christ Church School Carol Service

We are hosting this event for the school here at St Anne's at **9.30am on Thursday 21st December**. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend and join in the Carol Singing.

24th of December is both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve



For our prayers— Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently including Janet, and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Lionel Patrick Salmon, Kenneth Timbers, Thomas McNight, Milton McGregor, Fred Hogg, Morgan Johnson, Ed Anderson and Marylou Renault.

Services during the week 17th December 2023

- Monday** **12noon** Advent Reflection with Mass
- Tuesday** **8.30am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
- Thursday** **8.30am** Morning Prayer in Chapel
9.30am Christ Church School Carol Service
- Friday 22nd** *No Morning Prayer or My Move*
2pm Tea and Chat
- Sunday 24th** **9am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
Advent 4 **10am** Sung Mass
- Christmas** **5pm Crib Service**
Eve **11pm Midnight Mass**
- Monday 25th** **10am Sung Eucharist with Carols**
Christmas Day
- Sunday 31st** **9am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
Christmas 2 **10am** Sung Mass

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Public Weekday Morning Prayer will not take place from Friday 22nd December and will resume Tuesday 9th January 2024!

Church complex is closed from Boxing Day till New Years Day.
Admin Office is closed from 22nd Dec until the 9th January 2024.