

A Service of Eucharist for Advent

The Gathering

Opening hymn - **Come, thou long-expected Jesus**
sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit:
All Amen.

The Lord be with you:
All And also with you .

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candle is lit, a prayer is said

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
All Amen.

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.**

Confession & Absolution

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

You bring our fear into the light of love; we prefer to hide in the shadows.

Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

You promise healing for the earth; we turn our backs on our common world

Christ have mercy

All Christ have mercy

You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh; we worship distant idols of celebrity and power.

Lord have mercy

All Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,

forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray

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.
All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

2 Samuel: 7.1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to

shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Romans 16: 25-27

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 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—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Acclamation

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 Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1: 26-38

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

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

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

This response, or another, may be used:

Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

At the end we may say:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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

All **And also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

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

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

All You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

All He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in
remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his
blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may
be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we
offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to
join the eternal song of heaven:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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 forever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**All we proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes.**

Agnus Dei

**All Jesus, Lamb of God, have
mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have
mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

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.

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

A period of silence may be kept,

Prayer after Communion

**All Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands: may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from east and west, from north and south to greet the Lord of all; we ask this in his name.
Amen.**

Notices

Recessional Hymn – **The angel Gabriel from heaven came**
sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

- 2 'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

- 4 Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Birjina gastettobat zegoen

Basque Carol, Charles Bordes (Collector) (1863-1909), Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always
Amen.

Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

All **Amen.**