



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW



SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH EUCHARIST 10am

Revd Andrew Body *President*
& *Preacher*

Michael Oakley *Director of Music*

Robert Green *Organist*

The Choir of St Laurence's

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to St Laurence's, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer to our congregation. Please be aware that this service will be live-streamed and the recording will be available on YouTube afterwards.

During communion all are welcome to come forward to receive if you have been baptised in any Christian church, all others are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please note communion will be offered in both kinds. Intinction by individuals is not permitted, following the hygiene guidance issued by the Church of England.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church, and everyone is welcome. If you need any assistance accessing our services, please ask one of the stewards.

Children are always welcome in St Laurence's and there is a children's area in the North aisle with toys, games and art materials available for use at any time.

A toilet, including facilities for people with disabilities, is in the North aisle of the Church.

No Photography or Recording is allowed during this service.

A donation to support the work of this church including gift aid envelopes can be placed in the basket either before the service begins or as you leave; donations made before the service will be presented at the appropriate point; your contribution is greatly appreciated. You can also donate by text, by sending STLL22 (add amount) to 70070, eg to donate £5, text STLL £5 to 70070.

Thank you for your support



If you use a hearing aid please switch to the 'T' position and you will be tuned into the induction loop system.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church in which all are welcome

Picture on front cover: *The Baptism of Christ*
Leonardo da Vinci c. 1483 - 1519

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our Salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin 1676–1749
tr. John Chandler 1808–76

WINCHESTER NEW

THE GREETING

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

A candle is lit and a prayer said

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
Blessed be God for ever.

Please sit.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON



Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Plainsong Mass XVIII

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.**

If you are able, please stand

Let us pray

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.**

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3. 14 - 20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146.4–end

The Choir sings

4. Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help: and whose hope is in the Lord his God;
5. Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever;
6. Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong: who feedeth the hungry.
7. The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind.
8. The Lord helpeth them that are fallen: the Lord careth for the righteous.
9. The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.
10. The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore: and throughout all generations.

NEW TESTAMENT READING
Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If you are able, please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1st time Choir

2nd time Choir & Congregation



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL READING
Luke 3.7-18

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit

SERMON

Silence is kept

If you are able, please stand

THE 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.**

Please sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response after each bidding

Maranatha

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And at the end

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay:

give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

If you are able, please stand

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

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh what peace we often forfeit,
Oh what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee—
Thou wilt find a solace there.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and singing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Solo Choir and congregation-----

Sanc-tus, — sanc-tus, — sanc-tus Dom-in-us De-us Sa-ba-oth. Ple-ni-sunt coe-li-et-ter-ra
glo-ri-a-tu - a - Ho-san-na-in ex-cel-sis
Be-ne-dic-tus qui ve-nit in nom-in - e Dom-in - i Ho-san - na in ex - cel - sis

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth. 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.*

Plainsong Mass XVIII

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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

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 Laurence 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.**

Please sit

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Awaiting his coming with glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. 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.**

AGNUS DEI

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Agnus Dei. The first staff is labeled 'Solo' and 'Choir and congregation'. The second staff is also labeled 'Solo' and 'Choir and congregation'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Solo Choir and congregation

Ag-nus-De - i qui-tol-lis-pec-ca-ta mun-di mi-se-re-re no - bis

Solo Choir and congregation

Ag-nus-De - i qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di do-na no-bis pa-cem

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

Plainsong Mass XVIII

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The people receive communion.

*To the words of distribution the communicant replies **Amen.***

Communicant members of any Christian Church are welcome to receive communion here. All others are invited to come for a blessing, holding this service sheet.

The Choir sings

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
 Be careful for nothing;
 but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
 let your requests be made known unto God.
 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
 shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anon

attrib. John Redford c.1500–1547

A silence is kept

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

**Almighty God,
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out
 in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work
 to your praise and glory. Amen.**

If you are able, please stand when directed

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

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

As we await our coming Saviour,
 go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hills of the North, rejoice,
 river and mountain-spring,
 hark to the advent voice;
 valley and lowland, sing.
 Christ comes in righteousness and love,
 he brings salvation from above.

2. Isles of the southern seas,
 sing to the listening earth,
 carry on every breeze,
 hope of a world's new birth:
 In Christ shall all be made anew,
 his word is sure, his promise true.

3. Lands of the East, arise,
 he is your brightest morn,
 greet him with joyous eyes,
 praise shall his path adorn:
 your seers have longed to know their Lord;
 to you he comes, the final word.

4. Shores of the utmost West,
 lands of the setting sun,
 welcome the heavenly guest
 in whom the dawn has come:
 he brings a never-ending light
 who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey home;
 songs be in every mouth,
 lo, from the North we come,
 from East, and West, and South:
 in Jesus all shall find their rest,
 in him the universe be blest.

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn BWV601

J. S. Bach 1685-1750

Please join us for coffee after the service

Today at 11.30am

Choral Matins

Responses: Clucas

Canticles: Stanford in B flat

Anthem: This is the Record of John - Gibbons

Next Sunday's Services

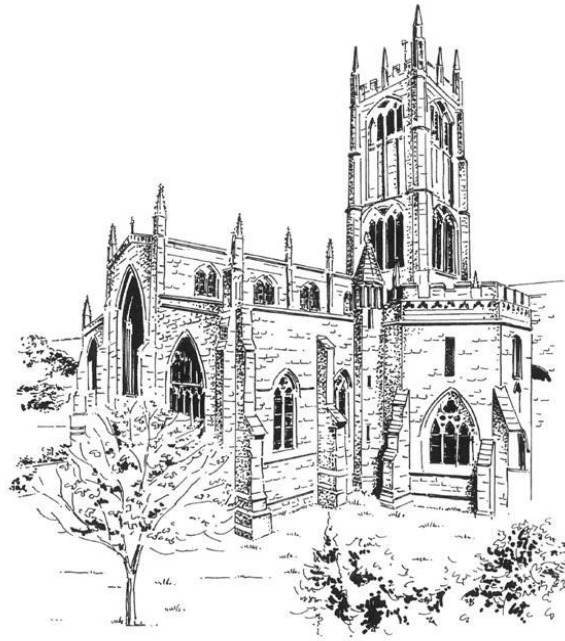
8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

7pm Carols in the Castle (in the Chapel of Ludlow Castle)

Christmas Services 2024

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Wednesday 18 December | 7pm | Service of Light for the Bereaved |
| Sunday 22 December | 7pm | Carols in the Castle |
| Monday 23 December | 7pm | Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Tuesday 24 December | 4pm | Christingle |
| | 11.15pm | Midnight Mass |
| Wednesday 25 December | 8.15am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 10.30am | Family Christmas Service |



An inclusive church welcoming everyone



St Laurence's is committed to the goals of a Fairtrade Church. We use fairtrade communion wine, tea, coffee, sugar and other products where possible. We hold regular Fair Trade stalls and events promoting Fairtrade

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