

ST PETER'S PARKSTONE



FOCUSED ON GOD - SPEAKING OF JESUS - CARING ABOUT PEOPLE



The 4th Sunday of Advent

20th December 2020

*President : The Revd Sally Bedborough,
Associate Priest*

Do please take this booklet home with you

Welcome to St Peter's Church, Parkstone

The season of Advent is a time of watching and waiting, both for the coming of Jesus as a baby at Christmas, and also for his coming in power and glory at the close of the age. The mood is one of expectant longing for the coming of Christ's Kingdom. The 'bread of heaven in Christ Jesus' and the 'cup of life in Christ Jesus' are pledges of the Kingdom that is to come when the glory of Christ is fully revealed – but which can be experienced as we offer ourselves afresh to make the Kingdom a reality in our daily living.

As we return to our church building after our second national lockdown, please continue to be cautious; maintaining hand hygiene and social distancing for the duration of our time of worship. We are mindful of those who have died due, directly or indirectly, to the Covid-19 virus. We give thanks that a programme of vaccination has begun; and we pray for all medical personnel that seek to support the sick.

A collection will not be taken during the service, but there is provision for you to make your offering as you leave the building. It is also possible to make an offering by using the 'donate' button on our website: www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk. Thank you; we are most grateful for any support you can offer.

For any pastoral needs, or enquiries about weddings or baptisms please contact:

Revd Mike Trotman, Rector
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Phone: 07525 662999

The parish office can be contacted on 01202 749085 or via email: office@stpetersparkstone.org.uk

THE GATHERING

The service begins with a hymn, sung by the choir; please stand.

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him Lord of all.**

**Crown him, ye morning stars of light,
who fixed this floating ball;
now hail the Strength of Israel's might,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Crown him ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace.
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every tribe and every tongue
to him their hearts enthral,
lift high the universal song
and crown him Lord of all.**

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 President welcomes everyone and we light the fourth Advent candle:

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.

The fourth candle is lit

All **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.
Amen.**

We are invited to confess our sins.

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.

Silence is kept briefly.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:
All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to
himself, and cleanse you from all your sins that you may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer, and then we
say together the Church's special prayer (Collect) for today, the
4th Sunday of Advent.*

**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

We remain seated for our readings.

Psalm 34:1-6,21-22

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise will ever be in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the Lord is good:

All **happy are all who trust in him.**

O magnify the Lord with me;
Let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Taste and see that the Lord is good:

All **happy are all who trust in him.**

Look upon him and be radiant
and your faces shall not be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

Taste and see that the Lord is good:
All happy are all who trust in him.

But evil shall slay the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants
and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

Taste and see that the Lord is good:
All happy are all who trust in him.

New Testament reading: Romans 16:25-end

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 ²⁶but 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— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

The Gradual hymn is sung by our choir; please remain seated

**For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.**

**The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.**

The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.

She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to ev'ry family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

All stand to welcome the Gospel.

The Gospel Reading, Luke 1:26-38

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

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 for ever, 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.

The Sermon, the Revd Sally Bedborough, Associate Priest

The Creed

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**All We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

The prayers of Intercession

Please sit for the prayers

As we gather expectantly in God's presence,
let us pray.

To the bidding **Come, O come, Emmanuel:**
Please respond **come and live in us.**

And at the end:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We stand and the President introduces the Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you**

We are invited to share a (socially distanced) sign of peace.

*Bread and wine are placed on the altar as the choir sing our
Offertory Hymn*

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's Son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's Son;
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.**

The President offers this prayer over the bread and wine.

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.

We stand for the Eucharistic Prayer
The Eucharistic Prayer (prayer F)

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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ
your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom
the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the
Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last
he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to

celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy,
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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he 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.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

All Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

All Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with Mary, the Mother of God; and with St Peter, St Osmond and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in 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.

All Amen.

The Sanctus bell is rung as we honour Christ's presence in bread and wine.

After a moment's silence, please sit for The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

As we await his coming in glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

All 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

The President breaks the consecrated bread saying

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.



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

The President invites the people to receive 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.**

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing. Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, Communion will be given in one kind only. Please respect the distance of at least one metre from others as you come forward, and form one line in the central aisle. Please sanitise your hands before receiving the host.

Any visitors who are used to receiving Communion in another Christian church are welcome to receive Communion here today. If you are not a Communicant you are welcome to come forward for a Blessing.

If you would like to receive a Blessing, please bring this service booklet with you. A Blessing will be given maintaining social distance.

The choir sing the following hymns:

**Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home:
coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's child,
your face lights up our way:
light of the world, Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

**Truth of our life, Mary's child,
you tell us God is good:
prove it is true, Mary's child.
Go to your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's child,
you're coming soon to reign:
king of the earth, Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.**

.....

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

**"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

**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!**

**Of her, Emmanuel, 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!**

After Communion we keep silence for a short while
Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we
may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your
salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

We say together...

**Fill us good Lord with your spirit of love; and,
as you have fed us with the one bread of heaven
so make us one in heart and mind
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements are made.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

We remain seated as the choir sing our final hymn.

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

Please stand for the Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the Blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

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

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

The ministers and people depart.