Christ Church Cathedral

OXFORD

CHORAL EUCHARIST
The Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday 6 December 2020
11am Oxford Time
Welcome to Christ Church! It is such a joy to welcome you once more to worship together in this holy place: to pray together, to give thanks together, to hear God’s word together and to receive Jesus, present in broken bread. Cathedral Choir is able to lead us in worship. While we rejoice to worship in our cathedral, we continue to pray with those who gather at home, worshipping with us in spirit and continuing to be united with us in prayer.

This year, we hear the Advent themes of hopeful expectation of the coming of God, and patiently waiting for God’s new creation with particular application.; As we light candles on the Advent wreath, as we hear the words of the prophets and the resonant promises of a Saviour, we pray for Christ’s light to dawn into the world.

Please pay attention to Covid risk mitigation measures and please do ask the vergers if you are unsure. There is much that is different from our “normal” practice, The chalice will not be offered to the congregation; the sacrament of Holy Communion is received fully in the bread alone. We will all maintain social distancing at all times, except for the moment of giving the Communion bread. Please make sure you wash or sanitise your hands when asked to do so, and please don’t touch or hug anyone who isn’t part of your household, especially at the Peace.

Despite all the difficulties of this time, we know that God is present here and with us forever. We are very grateful to you for being gracious to us and to one another as we all seek to navigate these new waters. May God bless you as we worship together.

Music before the Service
played by Bejamin Sheen, Sub Organist

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Nicolaus Bruhns (1665–1697)

Missa brevis
Lennox Berkeley (1903–1989)
The service starts at 11.05 GMT (11 am Oxford Time). Shortly before the beginning of the service, the deacon will welcome the congregation. Please stand when the clergy enter. The Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels and places it on the High Altar.

President

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

All

Amen.

The Greeting

President

The Lord be with you

All

and also with you.

The President introduces the service.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

President

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,  
but in our days you speak through your Son,  
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.  
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,  
that we may be found ready and watching  
when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
for you are our light and our salvation.

All

Blessed be God for ever.
Prayers of Penitence

The Deacon invites the people to confess their sins.

Deacon 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.

Please sit or kneel.

All 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.

Please remain sitting or kneeling, as the Choir sings the Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie

Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Absolution

President  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.

All  Amen.

Please stand.

The Collect

President  Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President  O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All  Amen.
The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1–11 (NRSV)

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.
Please stand. The Choir sings the Gospel Acclamation and the Deacon brings the Book of the Gospels in procession to the Crossing, to be read from among the people.

Gospel Reading
Mark 1:1–8 (NRSV)

Deacon    Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All       Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
    who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
    “Prepare the way of the Lord,
    make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Deacon    This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All       Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily
Canon Ward

Please be seated for the homily. Afterwards, there will be a short silence for reflection. Please stand when the Ministers stand and face East to join with the Apostles’ Creed.
President  Let us declare our faith in God

All  I believe in God, the Father almighty,
     creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A minister leads the prayers of the People.

Minister  Let us pray.

Please sit. During the intercessions, the following response is used:

Minister  Lord, in your mercy
All  hear our prayer.

The prayers usually end with:

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

The Peace

President 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.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please do not share the peace with physical touch, or move closer to those around you. However, please offer one another a sign of peace with a warm smile, nod or bow, and with the words ‘peace be with you,’ ‘the peace of the Lord,’ or similar.

Please sit as the altar is prepared, and stand if you are able for the prayer at the Preparation of the Table and the Eucharistic Prayer. The president will prepare the altar himself. The elements will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.
Offertory motet

Ave verum corpus, natum ex Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine:  
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.  

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humankind,  
whose pierced side flowed with water and blood;  
be unto us the foretaste in the trial of death,  
O gentle, O holy one! O Jesu, Son of Mary. Amen

WORDS: medieval Latin  
MUSIC: Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Preparation of the Table

President     Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

All           Blessed be God for ever.

President     Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All           Blessed be God for ever.
The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

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

President 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:

The Choir sings the Sanctus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Holy, holy, holy
Dominus Deus Sabaoth: Lord God of hosts:
pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.
President    Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All    Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
President  Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All  Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord’s Prayer

President  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.

President  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.

Giving of Communion

President  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 Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Agnus Dei

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.
If you would like to receive Communion, please wait in your place until you are invited by a verger to move towards the High Altar or to the west end Communion station. Please maintain two metres distance from others as you go to the altar, and please follow the instructions of the vergers at all times. If you need Communion bringing to you, please tell the verger when s/he comes to you.

We will receive Communion in one kind only. The President will receive at the altar, consuming the whole of the priest’s host which has been uncovered; then sanitise his hands before picking up the ciborium. He will pick up a host and place it in your hands without touching you. If you would like a blessing, keep your head bowed; the President will take a step back and pray a short blessing without touching you.

Prayer after Communion

President  Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel. A time of silent prayer may be kept.

All  

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.
The Dismissal

Please stand.

Blessing

President 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 upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Deacon Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Please follow the vergers’ directions as you leave the cathedral via Tom Quad and Tom Gate.

Music after the Service

Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ Andrew Carter (b. 1939)
As we continue to move through these unsettled times, please be assured that you are welcome here, whether you are a long-standing member of our congregations or worshipping with us for the first time. Although the pattern of our life has changed so much, our prayers continue; and please let us know if we can pray for you, or if you need our support. You are warmly invited to continue to participate in our community worship, prayer and spiritual life, both online and offline.

If you would like to be put on our mailing list to receive our weekly e-news, with a link to the online ‘Zoom Tea,’ please contact us at cathedraloffice@chch.ox.ac.uk or speak to one of the clergy in the cloister as you leave.

We will continue to provide online worship; please don’t put yourself under any pressure to come to church if it is safer for you to stay at home. Wherever you are, you remain a valued member of our community.

Online worship resources from Christ Church Cathedral

The Cathedral website contains an archive of sermons and services, alongside a regular series of blog reflections. You can find worship, resources and prayers at:

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedralblog
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/services-and-events/sermons
@chchcathedralox
If you would like to save time when you arrive next Sunday, you are welcome to fill in this slip at home and bring it to the cathedral when you are next here, and put it into the box at the desk. You are very welcome to fill out the slip at the desk instead if you would rather do that.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRACK &amp; TRACE CONTACT SLIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME/S:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT EMAIL / PHONE NUMBER:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HM Government**

**CORONAVIRUS**

**STAY ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS**

High temperature or new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell? Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**NHS**

**STAY ALERT**

**CONTROL THE VIRUS**

**SAVE LIVES**
Prayer for the Week

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.