



3rd Sunday of Advent



"John The Baptist"

Sunday 14th December 2025
St Mary's Kidlington
10am

www.kidhp.org.uk  KidlingtonAnglicanChurches

*In this and all our services the indications to sit /
stand are invitations not instructions.
Please adopt whatever posture most suits you.*

The Gathering

Please stand
Hymn (AMNS 484)

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman, God divinely human:

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid,
till the time expected, nurtured and protected:

Journey ends: where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes:
We will make him welcome.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

The Greeting

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

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

We light the third Advent candle which reminds us of John the Baptist

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

*We keep a time of silence
Use it to examine your conscience and confess your sins to God.*

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

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.

Readings *Please sit*

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 35.1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Hymn (MP 249)

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns!

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Leonard E Smith Jnr © 1974, 1978 New Jerusalem Music

The Gospel *Matthew 12.2-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon *Please sit*

Chorister Motet: People Look East - trad arr. Vann

A Creed for Advent *Please stand*

We say together in faith

**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:

**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**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:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *Please sit or kneel*

The Peace *Please stand*

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
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (MP 579)

Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name!
In works of sovereign power come shake the earth again;
That men may see, and come with reverent fear
To the living God, whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord, in all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive the Church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger, Lord, remember mercy,
O living God, whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord, where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes and evil crouches near,
Still our living God is reigning, He is reigning here.

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Taking of the Bread and Wine

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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 is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ
by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist,
who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you this bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

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.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with John the Baptist and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

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

**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

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.

You are welcome to receive communion: bread and wine which is the body and blood of Christ.

Please indicate whether you would like to take the wine from the common cup (also known as the chalice) or for the bread to be dipped (also called intinction).

Gluten free bread (wafers) are available at the altar; please let us know when you come up.

If you would rather not receive communion simply remain seated, or come up for a blessing instead.

Chorister Anthem: The Angel Gabriel - Basque trad

Prayer after Communion

**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.**

The Sending Out *Please stand*

The Blessing

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Recessional Hymn (MP 796 – repeat three times)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
Shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
The trees of the field shall clap their hands,
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
And you'll go out with joy.

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The Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Amen.

Organ voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV
645 - Bach

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Prayer Ministry Team

If you would like someone to pray personally and simply with you, for yourself or a loved one, please go to the Chancel after the service. Two members of the Prayer Ministry Team (name-badges on blue lanyards) will be ready to listen and pray. You may like to bring your coffee with you. If someone is already being prayed with, please wait outside the Chancel and you will be attended to as soon as possible. You are also welcome to ask other members of the Prayer Ministry Team to pray with you.

Please note: The usual rules of confidentiality apply.

Safeguarding

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by abuse or has concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for our parish:

Yo Davies
(07865 664451; safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk)

or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team
(01865 208295; safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org)

Presence and Absence

Remembering those we love at Christmas



Come and sing carols and remember with love
those who can't be with us any more.
A simple service to help us live with loss and
find hope at Christmas.

St Mary's Church Kidlington TODAY
(Sunday 14th December) 5.30pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Contact Felicity: 07821 542182
felicityscroggie@gmail.com



Advent and Christmas services in all our churches



You are warmly invited to any of our services over the Advent and Christmas season

Please note there is no 8am service on Christmas Day and there are no Iona services on 23rd and 30th Dec.

Also no 11am service on Christmas Eve and 31st Dec.

Sunday 7th December

10am Parish Communion
10am All Together with Christingle
5.30pm Community Carols
9pm Compline

St Mary's Kidlington
St John's
St Mary's Kidlington
St Mary's Kidlington



Saturday 13th December

6pm Broadway Carols on the Green

Oxford Road end of Broadway

Sunday 14th December

10am Parish Communion
10am Parish Communion
10am Parish Communion
5.30pm Presence & Absence
9pm Compline

St Mary's Kidlington
St John's
St Mary's Hampton Poyle
St Mary's Kidlington
St Mary's Kidlington



Sunday 21st December

10am Joint Parish Holy Communion with Nativity Play
St John's



5.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols
9pm Compline

St Mary's Kidlington
St Mary's Kidlington



Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

3pm Christingle
4pm Crib Service
5pm Carol Service
11pm Midnight Mass
11.30pm Midnight Mass



St Mary's Kidlington
St John's
St Mary's Hampton Poyle
St Mary's Kidlington
St John's



Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion
10am Christmas Communion

St Mary's Kidlington
St Mary's Hampton Poyle