

# St Matthew's Westminster



## The Sunday Mass

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



A warm welcome to our church, particularly if you are here for the first time. Founded in 1851, St Matthew's has always been rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England with worship at its centre, forming a faith that is worked out in daily life. We are an open and inclusive church, where all are welcome.

Please ensure mobile telephones are switched off for the duration of the service.

For those who are hard of hearing the church has an inductive loop system. Please set your hearing aid to the T position during the liturgy.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who are gluten intolerant. Please ask for this before the service begins.

If you are new to St Matthew's and would like to know more about our life, please see our website [www.stmw.org](http://www.stmw.org).

During the current period, Communion will continue to be in one kind i.e. just in bread form. It has always been the Church teaching the Communion is fully valid even in only one form, and we look forward to be able to extend the chalice to all once again.

**You are required to wear a face mask or covering for the duration of your time with us (removing your covering only to receive Holy Communion) and you are asked to cooperate with social distancing.**

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# THE GATHERING

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## Mass Setting

Mass for solo voice  
*David Bednall (b 1979)*

## Organ Prelude

Nun ruhen alle walder  
*Jacques Von Oortmerssa (1950-2015)*

*When the bell rings, please stand for the entry of servers and clergy.  
As the hymn is sung, the Altar and the Book of The Gospels  
are blessed with incense.*

## Processional

Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,  
And earth's final hour draws near,  
May he then as our defender  
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the co-eternal Spirit,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

*Words: Latin tr E Caswall (1814-78)  
Music: Merton, W H Monk (1823-89)*

## The Greeting

*Priest* ✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

*All* **and also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Mass, and invites the congregation to seek  
the grace and mercy of God, as we celebrate the mystery of redemption.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*Priest* **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
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

*The priest pronounces Absolution.*

## The Collect of the Day

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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**Old Testament Reading** 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16

*at the end of the readings –*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 89**

*My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord:  
with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.  
For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever:  
thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.  
I have made a covenant with my chosen:  
I have sworn unto David my servant;  
Thy seed will I stablish for ever:  
and set up thy throne from one generation to another.*

*Malcolm Archer (b 1952)*

**New Testament Reading** Romans 16. 25-end

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to your word. Alleluia.

**The Holy Gospel** St Luke 1. 26-38

*when the Gospel is announced - Glory to you, O Lord.  
at the end of the reading - Praise to you, O Christ.*

The Nicene Creed *(please stand)*

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.

The Prayers of The People *(please remain standing)*

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# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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## The Peace

*Priest* In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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.**

*The congregation is invited to share a non-contact gesture of peace*

## Offertory

*Gracious Lady, you are blest with God's favour;  
In your womb all hopes shall rest - this world's Saviour;  
He shall save the world from sin, as the kingdom's ushered in.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.*

*Can it be I am God's choice? (Lowly maiden)  
How can God's Word use my voice to proclaim him?  
Can the great God stoop to me: that the world his grace may see?  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.*

*Blessèd Mother you shall be; God's own dwelling;  
You, the rose whose sanctity - sweetly smelling -  
Shall create the space on earth, for God's Son to come to birth.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.*

*Let it be then as you say; God me raises!  
Let me now and every day, learn his praises.  
May the 'Yes' that I have giv'n be a pathway into heav'n.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.*

*Mary, Mother of the Lord, God once called you  
To bring forth his holy Word, that enthralled you,  
May I too wait patiently for God's will to form in me.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.*

*Words: Jeremy Davies*

*Music: Chislehurst, Sydney Nicholson (1875 - 1947)*

*During the singing of the hymn the Altar is prepared. Once prepared, the Altar, with the gifts of bread and wine upon it, is blessed with incense. The clergy & congregation are also censed.*

## **Orate Fratres**

*Priest* Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

*All* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

*The priest says a prayer over the elements of bread and wine.*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer** *(please stand)*

*Priest* The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*We celebrate the work of God in creating,  
restoring and bringing to completion all that is his.*

... for ever praising you and saying:

*Solo* **Sanctus & Benedictus**

*We recall Jesus' institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.*

*Priest* Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

*We recall the work of Christ, and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
praying as members of the Church for our whole life and mission.*

*Priest* ... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A short time of silence is kept at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.*

## The Lord's Prayer

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 consecrated bread is broken in silence before it is shared.  
We who are many, are one, for we all share in the one bread.*

## Holy Communion

*The Celebrant invites the congregation to receive Communion, and all respond*

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*A note for visitors - anyone who receives Holy Communion at their own church is welcome to do so at this service. If for any reason you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please remain seated until a steward directs you forward.*

## Agnus Dei

*A note for visitors - anyone who receives Holy Communion at their own church is welcome to do so at this service. Please remain seated until a steward directs you forward.*

The Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand*).

## Announcements

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# THE DISMISSAL

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## Magnificat, The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*The Berkshire Service*  
*Malcolm Archer (b 1952)*

## The Blessing

*Priest*     The Lord be with you  
*All*         **and also with you.**

*The priest pronounces God's blessing, which is followed by the Dismissal -*

*All*         The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*The Mass concludes with the Salve Regina, which recalls the centrality of the Incarnation as we are sent out to live the faith we have proclaimed.*

### **Salve Regina**

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,  
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ,  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos  
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;  
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

*O, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children  
of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs,  
Mourning and weeping in this vale of  
tears.*

*Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
Thine eyes of mercy toward us;  
And after this our exile, show unto us the  
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin  
Mary.*

*There will be a retiring collection for the life & ministry of St Matthew's.*

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### **Organ Postlude**

Fugue on Magnificat  
*J S Bach (1685-1750)*

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## THE ANNUNCIATION

*by* Edwin Muir

The angel and the girl are met  
Earth was the only meeting place.  
For the embodied never yet  
Travelled beyond the shore of space.  
The eternal spirits in freedom go.

See, they have come together, see,  
While the destroying minutes flow,  
Each reflects the other's face  
Till heaven in hers and earth in his  
Shine steady there. He's come to her  
From far beyond the farthest star,  
Feathered through time. Immediacy  
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss  
That from their limbs all movement takes.  
Yet the increasing rapture brings  
So great a wonder that it makes  
Each feather tremble on his wings.

Outside the window footsteps fall  
Into the ordinary day  
And with the sun along the wall  
Pursue their unreturning way.  
Sound's perpetual roundabout  
Rolls its numbered octaves out  
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon  
These neither speak nor movement make,  
But stare into their deepening trance  
As if their gaze would never break.