



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 23 December, 2018

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

SUNG EUCHARIST with Junior Church Presentation

WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN

Please use this service sheet in conjunction with the purple service booklet

*A very warm welcome to our services today.
Please join us for refreshments after our 9.30 and 10.30 services.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 315

(*Abbot's Leigh*)

1. Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angels word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the Joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.
2. Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning from the awful tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.
3. Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
tokened in the wind and flame.
4. Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may thy Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

[George B. Timms, 1910-1997]

THE COLLECT

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. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Book of Micah

The Lord says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 395

(St Stephen)

1. With Mary let my soul rejoice,
and praise God's holy name –
his saving love from first to last,
from age to age the same!
2. How strong his arm, how great his power!
the proud he will disown;
the meek and humble he exalts
to share his glorious throne.
3. The rich our God will send away
and feed the hungry poor;
the arms of love remain outstretched
at mercy's open door.
4. So shall God's promise be fulfilled,
to Israel firmly made:
a child is born, a Son is given
whose crown will never fade.
5. All glory to the Father, Son
and Spirit now proclaim;
with Mary let the world rejoice
and praise God's holy name!

[David Mobray b.1938
based on Luke 1:46-55]

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

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

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 80

(Divinum Mysterium)

1. Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.
2. By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.
3. He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.
4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.
5. This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.
6. Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Whereso'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

COMMUNION MOTET A maiden most gentle - *Andrew Carter*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 85

(*Gabriel's Message*)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," he said, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady," *Gloria!*

"For known as blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold: *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." *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: *Gloria!*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 394

(*Helmsley*)

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!

[Timothy Dudley-Smith, *b.* 1926]

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 23 DECEMBER 2018

As a Kingdom People we are a church that seeks to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham
Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

The Office is open for visitors on Monday - Friday between 1100 & 1300

PLEASE PRAY FOR

All those who are celebrating their wedding within the Pershore Benefice, those who are being baptised, those who are in need and those who have recently died.

We also pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs today or in the coming week.

~

NOTICES & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURES & EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

The Benefice Office will close at 1300 on Friday 21 December
and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019

(Opening hours for visitors are 1100 - 1300)

Please phone the Benefice Office Answerphone Service on 01386 552071
for all emergency contact details over the Christmas period

*With every good wish for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year
from everyone in the Pershore Benefice*

ALL BENEFICE EUCHARIST NEXT SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER There will be an All Benefice Eucharist held at 10:30 in Pershore Abbey. We hope you will be able to join us.



FOLLOW THE STAR:

The Booklets have arrived at last, if you ordered a copy it will be on the table at the back of the Abbey or in the letter rack, there is £1.50 to pay. The readings start on Christmas Eve - so they arrived just in time! There are a few spare copies if you would like one but haven't ordered one.

TRAIDCRAFT: In 2019 we will have our first stall on 20th January which will have some sale items along with foodstuffs. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause. We wish you all a brilliant Fairtrade Christmas. *Dora and the team* .

ABBEY LIGHTING: The PCC has recently acquired a specification for the installation of a modern, enhanced energy efficient lighting system to change what is currently an inadequately lit Abbey interior into a warm and welcoming space with the ability to alter the lighting levels and ambient feel within the church through selective switching and dimming. The aim is to provide appropriate lighting for different styles of worship, concerts and performances or drama etc. To this end an application for a faculty is about to be made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. If you are interested in this project and would like to see details of what is being proposed please speak to David Long or Robin Hancox. Further details about this project will be posted on the notice boards as this project evolves.

BRUSH UP YOUR GERMAN - in time for the May visit from our friends in Salzwedel. The County Council run a class at the library for Pre-Improvers, those who have a beginners knowledge but would like to express themselves better. The course is very inter-active, focusing on speaking and listening. You can sign up online at [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adult learning](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adult%20learning) for the next 12 week course beginning on Wednesday, 9th January until 3rd April at a cost of £120 (just £10 per 2-hour session) from 1500-1700. The Tutor, Connie Lightowler, can be contacted through Pershore library if you want more information. Angela Gerrard is enrolling and would love people to join her.

DO YOU MAKE YOUR OWN SAUSAGES? Not the ones with pork or beef but the stuffed cloth type used to prevent drafts at the bottom of doors. If so the Abbey needs one for the North door by the St John's chapel. Can you help ?

Robin Hancox

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MINCE PIES for the Carol Service and CTIP distribution in town which were much appreciated and enjoyed.

NEW ASSISTANT CURATE: Revd Steve Dunton will be coming to the Pershore Benefice next year to serve his curacy with us and will be ordained priest in Worcester Cathedral on 22nd June 2019. We look forward to welcoming Steve, his wife Hannah, and two of their children, Will and James. Steve and his family are very much looking forward to coming and serving alongside us. *Claire*

WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA- NEW YEAR GALA CONCERT SATURDAY 5 JANUARY at the Abbey at 14:30. Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra are keen to advertise their policy of giving a complimentary ticket to a carer who brings a disabled person and also give a free ticket to a driver, if they bring three others who would otherwise have difficulty getting to the venue.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Christmas Eve Monday 24th December

3.30pm Christingle Service (Abbey)

4.00pm Christingle and Crib Services (St James', Birlingham)

5.00pm Carols & Christingle Service (St Nicholas', Pinvin)

11.15pm Midnight Mass (Abbey)

Christmas Day Tuesday 25th December

8.00am Eucharist (Abbey)

9.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Wick)

10.30am Christmas Communion (St James', Birlingham)

10.30am All Age Eucharist followed by sherry & soft drinks (Abbey)

Sunday 30th December

08.00am Eucharist (Abbey)

10.30am Benefice Eucharist (Abbey)

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY TO SATURDAY IN THE ABBEY

08:00 Silent Prayer

08:30 Matins and Eucharist

17:00 Evening Prayer

Everyone is very welcome to attend these services

ABBEY SERVICES SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:00 Eucharist

09:30 Morning Praise followed by refreshments

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church & followed by refreshments

17:00 Nine Lessons and Carol Service

Sunday 23 December

16:00 Christingle & Crib Service at
St Mary's Church, Wick

Monday 24 December

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

10:30 Bells (St A)

15:30 Christingle Service (A)

17:00 Carols and Christingle Service at
St Nicholas' Church, Pinvin

23:15 Midnight Mass (A)

Tuesday 25 December-Christmas Day

08:00 Eucharist (A)

09:00 Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)

10:30 All Age Eucharist (A)

10:30 Holy Communion at St James' Church,
Birlingham

Wednesday 26 December - St Stephen

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

Thursday 27 December -

The Holy Innocents

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

Friday 28 December

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

11:00 Eucharist (A)

13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

Saturday 29 December

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Martin & Eucharist (A)

17:00 Evening Prayer (A)

ABBEY SERVICES - SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS 1

08:00 Eucharist (A)

10:30 Benefice Eucharist (A)