



Service Sheet

12th December 2021, 10.30am St Mary's

The Third Sunday of Advent

THE ADVENT HOPE

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website (www.denhamparish.church) or Facebook page (facebook.com/denhamparish.church).

WELCOME

HYMN

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,

with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

CONFESSION

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.

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. **Amen.**

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

(The third candle is lit)

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

SONG

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3. 14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives

victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3. 7-18

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He

said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Zephaniah 3 verse 9: "Then I will purify the lips of the peoples that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder."

God will purify lips and unify language so that all of his people from all nations will be able to worship him together. In the new earth, all believers will speak the same language, the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel will be reversed (Genesis 11). God will purify our hearts so that the words coming from our lips will be pure.

Verses 14-18 : The Lord himself will remove his hand of judgement, disperse Israel's enemies and come to live among his people. He will give them gladness.

We sin when we pursue happiness by cutting ourselves off from fellowship with God - the only person who can make us truly happy.

Zephaniah points out that gladness results when we allow God to be with us. We do that by faithfully following him and obeying his commands. Then God rejoices over us with singing. If you want to be happy, draw close to the source of happiness by obeying God.

HYMN

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
Gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

THE CREED

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.

PRAYERS

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

THE PEACE

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

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.

For he is your living Word; through him
you have created all things from the
beginning, and formed us in your own
image.

Through him you have freed us from
the slavery of sin, giving him to be born
of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead and
exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own
possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven, we
proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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:

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

**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.**

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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

At present we receive Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only.

We have devised a one-way system for receiving the bread and then returning to your place through the empty first pew. Please refer to the diagram on page 7. We are inviting people to come forward by pew number starting with pew No. 1.

Please follow the directions of our sidesteam and keep a distance of two meters to the person in front of you. If you'd like to receive a blessing, please keep you hands at your sides as you come forward. Please walk back to your pew after you receive the wafer and consume it there.

Almighty God, we thank you for

feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

HYMN

We wait with great expectancy to see your Kingdom come.
We trust your word to be fulfilled and pray your will be done.
So in our world of ache and loss we're calling out, as one:

*Come Lord Jesus,
we hunger and we yearn
for your return.
Come Lord Jesus,
oh we pray for your return.*

You came to us so long ago
and you will come again.
We long for heaven on the earth,
an end to grief and pain.
Lord, may our lives anticipate
and usher in your reign.

*Come Lord Jesus,
we long to know you here,
come and draw near.
Come Lord Jesus,
oh we long to know you here.*

So lead us in your patience, Lord,
and help us match your pace,
to walk the straight and narrow road
in rhythms of your grace,
and may this Advent way of life
all hurriedness replace.

*Come Lord Jesus,
and teach us how to wait,
you are not late.
Come Lord Jesus,
help us worship as we wait.*

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give
you peace; and the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among us and remain
with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

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Let's pray together ...

- For joyful courage as we live out the good news of Jesus..
- For care of God's creation and our efforts to combat the effects of climate change
- For our health service, the vulnerable and the sick.
- For the families and friends of Sylvia Gammond and all those who have lost loved ones.



Christmas 2021

At the Heart of Christmas

PRAY: Who would you like to share the good news of Jesus with this Christmas? Pray for them daily.

TAKE several copies of *Denham Parish News* and give them away (they include the full Christmas programme).

INVITE: A personal invitation to come to a Carol or Christmas service together is by far the best way. Sign up at www.denhamparish.church/christmas

HOST: Invite friends and neighbours to a *carols party* and watch one of our streamed services at your home on YouTube or FaceBook. Let the office know and we will provide some tips and *Why Christmas* booklets.

email: office@denhamparish.church

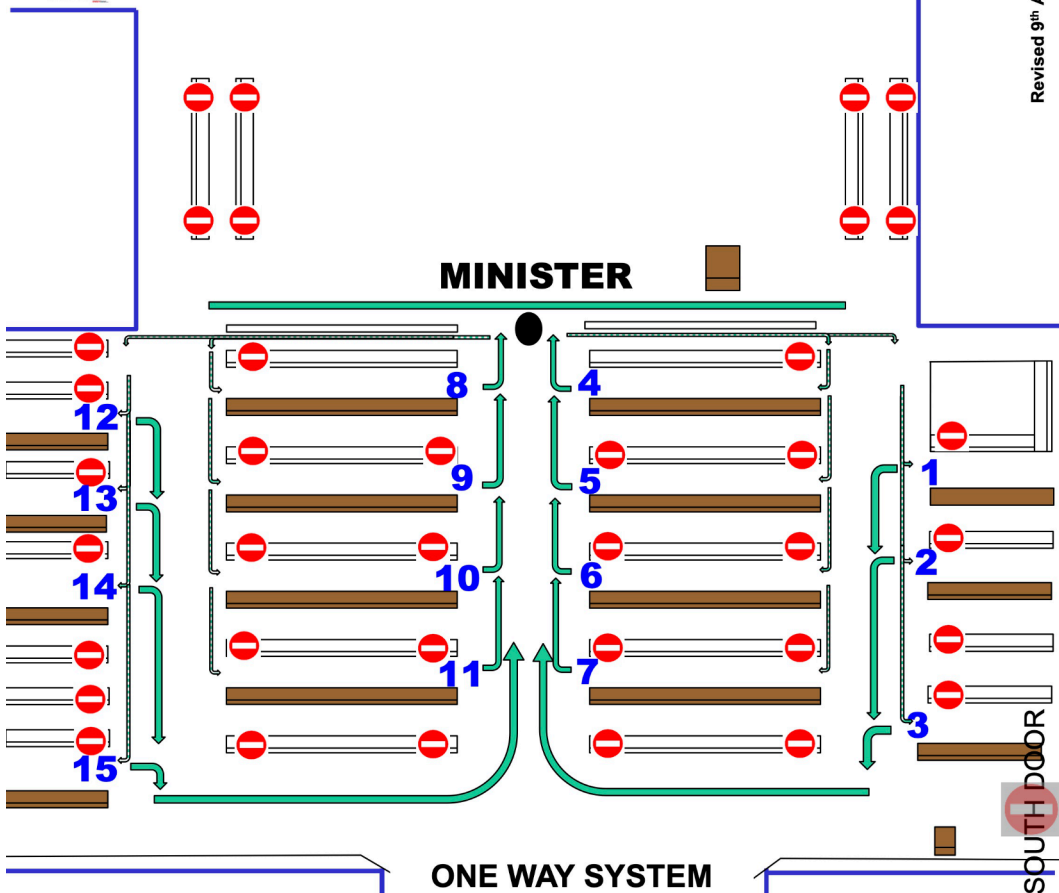
phone: 01895 832771

**NO
ENTRY
STAFF ONLY**

ALTAR

Revised 9th August

MINISTER



ONE WAY SYSTEM

Starting with pew 1,
follow the bolder →
arrows to the front.

Once you have
received the bread,
please follow the
circular route →
back through the empty
1st pew) to your eat and
consume your bread
there. Thank you

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Route TO take
Communion

Route BACK to
your pew/seat



Christmas in Denham 2021

Sat 27th Nov 10.00 am

Advent Wreath Making. [On Zoom](#)

Contact St Mary's Church Office to sign up

Sun 12th Dec 3.30 pm

Carols at Café Church. [St Mark's](#)
Favourite carols • Christmas treats • time to chat

4.00 pm

Christingle Service. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

Celebrate Christmas with that famous orange!

A child-friendly service for all ages

Sun 19th Dec 4.00 pm

Carols for All Ages by Candlelight. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

Readings, carols, anthems and songs, with contributions from all ages

6.30 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

Reflective service with readings, carols and choir anthems

Fri 24th Dec 4.00 pm
(Christmas Eve)

Crib Service. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

For all ages. Children are invited to bring a new toy as a gift for RNIB Sunshine House (Northwood)

11.00 pm

Midnight Holy Communion. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

Sat 25th Dec 9.00 am

Christmas Day Holy Communion. [St Mary's](#)

(Christmas Day) 10.30 am

Christmas Day Family Service. [St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

A short service for all ages, celebrating Jesus' birth

Sun 26th Dec 9.00 am

No service at [St Mary's](#). Join us at 10.30 am!

10.30 am

Family Service with Holy Communion.

[St Mary's](#) | [YouTube](#)

**For more information and to sign up:
www.denhamparish.church/christmas
Or call our church office: 01895 832771**