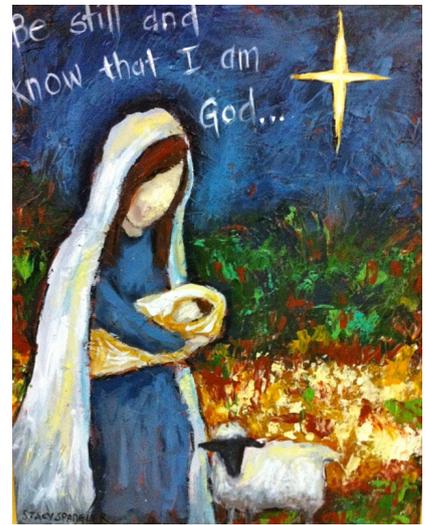


The 4th Sunday of Advent 20th December 2020



The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and
all people shall see it together.
Isaiah 40 verse 5

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

The lighting of the fourth candle for Advent

Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Handover your heart. Here it comes – love. It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist and the courage of Mother Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Love, leads us home.

Light four candles.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love.
We light a candle for love. May it light the way.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Kneel.
Silence is kept.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word - We stand together

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 89 verses 1-4, 19-26

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord:

with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness

throughout all generations.

I will declare that your love is established for ever;

you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

' "Your seed will I establish for ever

and build up your throne for all generations." '

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

'I have set a youth above the mighty;

I have raised a young man over the people.

'I have found David my servant;

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

'My hand shall hold him fast

and my arm shall strengthen him.

‘No enemy shall deceive him,

nor any wicked person afflict him.

‘I will strike down his foes before his face

and beat down those that hate him.

‘My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him,

and in my name shall his head be exalted.

‘I will set his dominion upon the sea

and his right hand upon the rivers.

‘He shall call to me, “You are my Father,

my God, and the rock of my salvation;”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The First lesson : Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God* who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom* be the glory for ever! Amen.*

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Canticle : The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary Luke 1 :46-55

1 My soul proclaims the | greatness · of the | Lord,
my spirit rejoices · in | God my | Saviour,

2 who has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant;
from this day all gene|rations · will | call me | blessed;

3† the Almighty has done | great things | for me
and | holy | is his | name.

4 God has mercy on | those who | fear him,
from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.

5 The Lord has shown | strength ·with his | arm
and scattered the | proud in | their con|ceit,

6 casting down the mighty | from their | thrones
and | lifting | up the | lowly.

7 God has filled the hungry with | good | things and sent the | rich a|
way | empty.

8 He has come to the aid of his | servant | Israel to re|member ·the |
promise of | mercy,

9 The promise | made to · our | forebears, to Abraham | and his |
children · for | ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'* But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?*' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born* will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Alleluia.

Sermon - Canon Michael Parker

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray - we kneel together

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.
Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.
O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.
Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.
O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

The Collect for the 4th Sunday of Advent and a collect for use daily
In Advent

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, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being:
We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life,
we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

As we close our prayers we keep silence.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Parish Notices - Including Christmas

As we begin six weeks of lockdown from the 26th December I understand that church services can continue with all the protective measures we need in place. Keep an eye on our online parish resources and the local news. If anything changes we shall let you know. Michael.

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

Our Church Office has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone. They are doing a terrific job. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch. The office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. SO...would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? Call 91853810. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office & the team will pray for them.

Supporting the Salvation Army - Sunday 13th December Toy Service

A huge thank you to everyone who has brought along a toy or gift to donate to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30 p.m.

Contact Pauline Smyth on 91852486 to book your seat. We will be maintaining social distancing within the church for this service so spaces are strictly limited for safety reasons.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 10 p.m. To attend this service you will need to book by contacting Pauline Smyth on 91852486. Limited seating available in line with government guidance. **You will need to bring a small piece of bread and some wine for communion.** We will celebrate Holy Communion as we normally do - but the congregation will remain seated in the church. Note too the earlier start time - 10 p.m. - this allows for the cleaning of the church after the service to prepare it for the Christmas morning congregation. Our thanks to Pauline for doing this important job.

Up-Coming Services in Church

Subject to any changes due to lockdown developments. Online services still available.

20th December Sunday

6.30 p.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols (Booking necessary. See above)

24th December - Christmas Eve - 10 p.m. Christmas Holy Communion

25th December - Christmas Day - 10 a.m. Christmas Celebration

27th December - Sunday at 10 a.m. - Morning Prayer