

Holy Trinity  
Headington Quarry



*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*24<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

Welcome to Holy Trinity Headington Quarry—the ‘village’ church in the city. Wherever you are on your walk with God, we hope you will feel welcome here. If you have questions or need help with anything, please speak to one of the welcomers at the door. It’s easy to worry about what to do in church, but the most important thing is that you find time to be with God. The words of the service are in this booklet—please join in the responses in **bold**.

Advent is a time of waiting, watching and joyful preparation. It anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives: as the Christ-child in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for Christ’s Coming among us.

As we keep this time of watching and waiting, may we become more deeply aware of the presence of Christ in the quietness and in the darkness—and may the Holy Spirit prompt us to a loving awareness of the presence of Christ in unexpected places and situations.

A prayer as you prepare for worship:

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you  
a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you;  
through the power of the Spirit of  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

(St Benedict, 480-543)

*Words of welcome. After we light the Advent wreath, children are welcome to join the Forest Sunday school taking place.*

## **Hymn 85**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.'

*Gloria!*

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.'

*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':  
most highly favoured lady.

*Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
'Most highly favoured lady.'

*Gloria!*

*Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen (Basque Carol)  
paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Please stand*

*The president says*

In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

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

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

*On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle on the Advent Wreath.*

### **Advent 4: Mary**

**Mary's gift beyond all telling  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way.  
Who could guess the final story?  
—cross and glory, Easter Day!**

*After the candle is lit:*

The people who walked in darkness  
**Have seen a great light**  
Jesus is the light of the world  
**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*The deacon introduces the prayers of penitence*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy  
 forgive what we have been,  
 help us to amend what we are,  
 and direct what we shall be;  
 that we may do justly,  
 love mercy,  
 and walk humbly with you, our God.  
 Amen.**

## Kyrie

Andante

10 Organ *mp* Lord have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy. *mf* Christ have  
 mer-cy, Christ have mer-cy. *mp* Lord have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy.

*The president says*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
 grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins  
 time for amendment of life,  
 and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray:

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.**

*Please sit*

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **First Reading: 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand.*

**Gospel Reading**

*We repeat the chant as the gospel book is carried forwards:*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid;  
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,  
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.**

(Hymn 334)

*The Gospel is announced*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel reading: 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex

**The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand*

Let us declare our faith in our coming Lord

**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 of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel.*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*We pray for those who are sick or in particular need:*

*Natalia Stoneman, Naomi Lawrence, Kate Samuel,*

*Grace, Josie, Kitty Datta, Bob Southgate, Benji,*

*Astrid Brooke, Caroline Winwood, Penny Champion, Doreen Jarvis.*



*Those who have died recently:*

*David Prince, Iris Kemp, Carol Morgan, Janne Goble, Peter Keen,  
June Masters, Tim Brighthouse.*

*Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:*

*Hilary Nex, Edith Lock, John White, Andrew Sheriff, Judith Catterall.*

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Peace**

*Please stand*

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 in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

*A minister says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **Hymn 32**

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest Thy virgin birth:  
Let every age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, Thou art still  
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
The saviour now to us displayed.

From God the Father He proceeds,  
To God the Father back He speeds;  
Runs out his course to death and hell,  
Returns on God's high throne to dwell.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness glow with new-born light,  
No more shall night extinguish day,  
where love's bright beams their power display.

All praise eternal Son, to Thee,  
whose advent sets Thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.

St Ambrose (340-397), trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

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**

*Please sit or stand as you are most comfortable*

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

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 and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago  
and opened for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
 we now watch for the day  
 when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
 And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
 and with all the company of heaven  
 to proclaim your glory  
 for ever praising you and singing:

## Sanctus and Benedictus

**Moderato**

10 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of

19 power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bles-sed is he, O bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

28 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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. (*Bells are rung*)

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. (*Bells are rung*)

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 the bread of life  
 and cup of salvation,  
 we proclaim his death and resurrection  
 until he comes in glory.

*Deacon:* Christ is the bread of life:

**Acclamation**

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we pro-claim your  
 death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry, un - til you come in glo - ry.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary 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**

*Please sit or kneel*

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.**

**Agnus Dei**

Slowly *mp*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have  
 mer - cy\_ on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy\_ on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant\_ us peace.

### **Invitation to Communion**

God's holy gifts  
 for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
 Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.**

*This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the steward. With the North aisle inaccessible, you will be directed down and back up the central aisle. To make this as smooth as possible, please allow everyone in your pew to come out before queueing. Those sitting towards the back on each side will be invited to come forwards first.*

*If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. If you wish to receive the chalice, please hold the base of the chalice and guide it towards your lips – the person administering the chalice will not let go of it in the process. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread).*

*If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.*

### **Hymn 34**

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,  
with a mingled hope and fear,  
faithful men and women praying,  
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:  
the Desire of all the nations —  
it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest  
to a virgin meek came down,  
and he burdened her with blessing,  
and he pained her with renown;  
for she bore the Lord's anointed  
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him  
since the ages first began,  
for in him was hid the secret  
which through all the ages ran —  
Son of Mary, Son of David  
Son of God and Son of Man.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)  
Melody: French Carol, arr. Vaughan Williams*

## Prayer after Communion

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.**

**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.**

## ***The Sending Out***

### **Hymn 47**

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

*Please stand*

## **The Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*A minister says*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please do join us for refreshments in the Coach House via the Quarry Road path. Please take this booklet away with you, and recycle it when you have finished with it. We no longer pass the collection plate around during the service, but you are welcome to use the collection plate at the back of church, or the contactless machine, if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church. If you would like to sign up to regular monthly giving, please visit [www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church](http://www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church) for more information.*

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006. Produced under CCL 234208.  
*Common Worship: Times and Seasons* copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006. Produced under CCL 234208. Chants © Copyright Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France. Advent Carol song *Copyright* © 2002 Mark Earey James Macmillan, St Anne's Mass © copyright 1997, 2001 by Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.



## **Notices: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **Sunday December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve**

8am Said Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

2.30pm, 3.30pm & 4.30pm Christingle Services

11.30pm Midnight Mass *Please note this service will be live streamed.*

### **Monday December 25th: Christmas Day**

8am Said Communion

10am Family Eucharist *Please note this service will be live streamed.*

### **Sunday December 31st: First Sunday of Christmas**

8am Said Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

***Please note Morning Prayer will resume on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.***

**Housekeeping matters during the building work:** Please kindly note that toilet facilities are available at the Coach House, and the vestry is now strictly out of use. Seating is more restricted inside the church - please be considerate when choosing a pew, and allow space for latecomers if possible. The back pews are reserved for children and families attending Sunday school. In the event of an emergency, fire exits are at the main church door and the chancel door. As the colder months approach please remember to wrap up warm when you come to church. With the north aisle boxing we don't have the full benefit of the church heating. Fleece blankets are available from the welcomers if needed!

**2023: A time to build** We are so grateful that the building work is progressing smoothly and to plan! Although the church will look and feel quite different over the coming months of building work, we remember that we have laboured for a very long time to bring these plans to fruition, and we all look forward in faith and hope to the completion of the works in 2024. Please continue to hold the project in your prayers. As the psalmist writes: 'unless the Lord builds the house, those who labour build it in vain' (Psalm 127.1). We ask you all to pray especially for wisdom for our architect and contractors, and for peaceful relations with our neighbours and local residents affected by the work.

God of vision and hope,

we thank you for our church building;

a place of prayer and pilgrimage,

witnessing to your love and presence in our midst.

We pray for our plans to develop the building

to further the work of your kingdom in this and future generations.

We pray for the guidance, resources and skills we need to bring the project to completion, and that we would be united in vision and focus as we work towards this goal, in the name of Jesus Christ our Cornerstone. Amen.

**Christmas Charity Collections** As we approach the Christmas season we encourage you to give what you can to support our four PCC charities - the Archway Foundation, the Oxfordshire Homeless Movement, Christians Against Poverty, and Wateraid UK. The PCC is not able to meet the donation budgeted for in 2023 from our current funds, and we are making a Christmas Charity appeal to reduce the shortfall. Collections will be taken at all services from December 17th through to December 31st. (Please note that the Christingle Services on Dec 24th will support the Children's Society as usual) If you're not able to attend services during this time please feel free to make a donation directly to the charities and if you would like to include this in our HTHQ total just let the Parish Office know.

**Welcome to Andrena.** Many of you will know Andrena Palmer who is the outreach worker at Collinwood Road United Reformed Church. Andrena recently trained as a Church Army Evangelist which is a special form of lay ministry linked to the Anglican church. As part of her ministry, Andrena will be working on some midweek ecumenical projects between our two churches, and will be around very occasionally on Sundays too. Andrena will receive her licence from the Archdeacon of Oxford at the **10am Eucharist service on Wednesday 3rd January.** Please come along to support her!

**Thank you:** The Vicar and Churchwardens would like to thank Waitrose Headington for their generous donation of 170 oranges for the Christingle Services in Aid of the Children's Society on Christmas Eve.

**Pathways Magazine** The latest edition of Pathways (Diocesan Magazine) is available to take away at the back of church.

**New Bible Study Group** Do you find studying the Bible on your own difficult? I know I do, I feel God is leading me to start a Bible Study group in my home in Headington. If you are interested and want to know more please contact me: [margaretatbodsey@gmail.com](mailto:margaretatbodsey@gmail.com) or 01865 761718. It will be a help to know what days and times folk are available, and I will try and fit around the majority. There will be six Bible Studies to start with in January to March 2024 and then we can see how it goes. I look forward to hearing from you, Margaret Jackson.

**Eco Resources List:** To view the Autumn recommended resources go to: <https://www.hthq.uk/eco-church-resources/>

**Eco Tip of the Week:** Amid the flurry of Christmas activity, you and your guests might appreciate a little fresh air. What could be more constructive than a mingling of the generations venturing out into the garden to check that your fences have hedgehog holes to ensure that hedgehogs are able to roam freely between gardens? (Hilary Rollin for Eco Church Group)

**Pastoral care team** Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers overleaf) or Helen Day, Janet Masters, or Anne Tarassenko.

**Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**  
*An open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God's love to all.*

As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. Our church is open every day. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

**Contact us**

**Vicar:** Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott  
[vicar@hthq.uk](mailto:vicar@hthq.uk) 01865 762835

**Associate Priest:** Revd Prof Rob Gilbert  
[associatepriest@hthq.uk](mailto:associatepriest@hthq.uk)

**Curate:** Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex  
[curate@hthq.uk](mailto:curate@hthq.uk) 07979 931889

**Parish Office:** [office@hthq.uk](mailto:office@hthq.uk) 01865 762931

**Churchwardens:** [wardens@hthq.uk](mailto:wardens@hthq.uk)

Website: [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)

**Church post code for emergencies:** OX3 8LQ