

HOLY TRINITY
HEADINGTON QUARRY



Third Sunday of Advent

13th December 2020

The Gathering

Welcome and parish prayer. Please remain seated.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

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

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen,
and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

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.**

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.

Silence is kept

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Taize Chant – The lord is my light

Gospel Reading

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 John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel reading: John 1. 6-8, 19-28.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sermon

Revd Prof Robert Gilbert

The Creed

Please stand

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Please sit. These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to 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.

Anthem How lovely are the messengers, Mendelsohn

Please sit

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

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

We say

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of 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.**

As the president receives the bread and wine, all who wish to receive communion join in saying 'Amen'.

The body of Christ, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Communion will be administered in silence. Please remain seated while we bring communion to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, the priest will pray a silent blessing instead – please hold this service booklet to indicate this.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
Amen.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

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.

Christ, be our light! ...

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

Christ, be our light! ...

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

Christ, be our light!

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

Christ, be our light!

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

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

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Notices

Church Services

We are delighted to be resuming services in church. Please sign up to attend via our church website, and please remember the Covid-19 precautions we are following: remain in your allocated space, do not mix with anyone outside your household or bubble, sanitize your hands when you arrive and leave and wear a face covering. We will also continue to broadcast services online.

Christmas Services

Online carol service on **Sunday 20th December at 6pm**,
Forest Church Christingles on **20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th December at 3pm**
Blue Christmas Service—**Tuesday 22nd at 6pm**. *A quiet service of readings, carols and prayers, allowing space for grief and pain to sit alongside the light and hope that is at the true heart of Christmas.*

First Eucharist of Christmas—**6pm on Christmas Eve**, our usual midnight mass service moved to an earlier time.

Christmas Day Communion at **9.30am and 10.45am** and online via our website.

Shotover Singers Outside Carols

You are invited to sing carols outside with the Shotover Singers this **Saturday 12th December** - no booking required, just donations afterwards.

Either 5.00-5.30 pm outside St Giles church, Horspath

Or 6.30-7.00 pm outside St John the Baptist Church, Stanton St John

You can read more about the Shotover Singers at www.circlemusic.co.uk

Their new CD features in the Guardian's best Classical Christmas albums of 2020.

Community Carols

Our outdoor community carol singing is set to take place on **Monday 21st December at 5pm**. In collaboration with our sister churches, we are looking to sing at four different locations - Wood Farm shops, Quarry Hollow, the Crib at Corpus Christi Church and in Risinghurst - and to encourage anybody living nearby to listen and sing along from their front gardens. Please let Laura know if you would like to come and sing. We also encourage you to join in the Oxfordshire Christmas Singalong, on BBC Radio Oxford at 5.40pm every Sunday. Details are here: <https://www.oxfordchristmas.co.uk/>

Advent Prayer Tree

Our churchyard tree will be lit every day from 3pm to 10pm. We invite you to hang a decoration on the tree, to pray and remember someone you love during this Advent season.

Advent Retreat

If you have space during this holy season of Advent, why not make time for a virtual retreat? Pray as you Go are offering a retreat led by Sister Gemma Simmonds, entitled 'God is with you'. New sessions are broadcast weekly on Mondays in December.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/article/advent-retreat-2020>

Donate to HTHQ while you shop

If you are carrying out any shopping via Amazon, please consider supporting Holy Trinity by clicking this link to our Smile Amazon page before you begin your shopping. Once you click the link, you can carry on with your Amazon shopping in the normal way, and our church will receive a donation at no cost to you:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1138600-0>

Building Project News

The PCC have agreed to begin the first phase of our building project, which involves new church lighting, electrical rewiring, and related works. This is set to begin on Monday January 11th 2021 and take 8-10 weeks. The proposed new lighting design from Light Perceptions Ltd can be viewed on the church website. Please get in touch with Laura, Helen or the churchwardens if you have any questions about the works. Please continue to pray for our fundraising efforts and for the building project as we move forwards on this journey of faith.

More Tea Vicar

There will be no 'More Tea Vicar' session on Wednesday 9th December – we will meet again on **Wednesday 16th December at 3pm**. Please bring along a favourite Christmas decoration to talk about!

Amnesty International

Although we cannot gather this year to write Amnesty greetings cards, we invite you to visit the Amnesty website to participate in the campaigns online:
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights>

Welcome to Placement Students

We are delighted to welcome Ninus Khako and Ash David, from Ripon College Cuddesdon, as placement students this year. We look forward to getting to know them and supporting them on their journey towards ordination.

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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

Contact us

Vicar: Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott
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Parish Office: office@hthq.uk 01865 762931

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Pastoral Care

Please contact Laura or any member of the team if you or someone
you know is in need of pastoral support:

Helen Day, Anne Tarrasenko, Nell Slocock, Sue Saville,
Margaret Taylor.

Website: www.hthq.org.uk