



Welcome to the
Parish Church of St Mark
Serving Broomhill & Broomhall
Living Thinking Loving Faith

Advent 2

Sunday 7 December 2025
at 10.00 am

Gathering

Introit: **Sleepers Wake!**

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 47)

Sleepers wake! A voice is calling, it is the watchman on the walls: Thou city of Jerusalem. For lo! The Bridegroom comes. Arise, and take your lamps! Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand. Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord.

Welcome

The President is Revd. Dr Mark Newitt

The Deacon is Jonathan Williamson

The Preacher is Jonathan Williamson

Welcome

Please do not take photos or videos during the service.

Advent Carol

Bang the drum and sing the chorus.

Fa la la la la la la...

Advent joy is now before us.

Fa la la...

For our God by incarnation,

Fa la la...

comes to birth for every nation.

Fa la la...

Here's the Baptist by the river.

Fa la la la la...

John made wicked people shiver.

Fa la la la...

Was he fearsome? No, much tougher:

Fa la la la...

he spoke up for those who suffer.

Fa la la la...

Now our Advent Candle's burning,
Fa la la...
and our hearts so full of yearning
Fa la la...
long to see the light of glory
Fa la la...
shine on us from Jesus' story.
Fa la la...

Nick Jowett
Tune: Deck the Hall

Prayers of Approach

May God be with you:
and also with you.

People of God: awake!

The day is coming when we shall see God face to face.

God calls us out of darkness to walk in the light of eternity.

We are God's children.

**Make us one in the hope of Christ
today and for ever.**

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

As we look for signs of the coming of Christ,
we acknowledge our part in the sin of the world.

Time of silence.

We sing the Bridget setting of the Kyrie by John Bell

(b.1949)

We sing

The musical score is written for a Cantor and a Congregation in 4/4 time, using a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are in Latin, and the music is divided into three systems, each with a Cantor part and a Congregation part.

System 1:

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Congregation Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

System 2:

Cantor Chris - te e - lei - son.

Congregation Chris - te e - lei - son.

System 3:

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - le - i

Congregation Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

When we fail to see you
in the needs of our neighbours:
forgive us, O God.

When we are complicit
in the exploitation of the earth's resources:
have mercy, O God.

When we despair and lose hope
that we can help bring about change in your world:
forgive us, O God.

When we fail to act with justice
and when what we do impacts adversely on others:
have mercy, O God.

When we think we have done enough
forgive us, O God.

We sing

The musical score is written for a Cantor and a Congregation in 4/4 time, using a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are in Latin, and the music is divided into three systems, each with a Cantor part and a Congregation part.

System 1:

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Congregation Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

System 2:

Cantor Chris - te e - lei - son.

Congregation Chris - te e - lei - son.

System 3:

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - le - i

Congregation Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

God who took our human nature
forgive you for all you have said,
done and failed to do,
and fit you for eternal life now and forever.
Amen.

The Collect

Loving God,
As we seek your presence amongst us today,
inspire us through your Holy Spirit
to be active in your service and joyful in your praise;
that like your messengers who proclaimed
justice, truth, respect and dignity
where they were denied or violated,
we too may take action to end oppression
and secure human rights for all your people.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen. *Shan Rush*

Attending

First Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10

Page 650 Old Testament, NRSVA

Read By Arthur Button

At the end the reader says:

How do these words speak to us today?

After the reading we share a time of quiet

Gradual Hymn

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 doth thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

*Text: Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749) trans. John Chandler (1806 - 76),
Music: from Musikalisches Handbuch (1690)
Tune: Winchester New*

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

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

At the end:

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

Sermon

Preacher: Jonathan Williamson

Time to reflect.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
where fear and courage join hands,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a God
who sits down in our midst,
sharing our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond
the safe place, into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.**

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

Inspired by an affirmation from the Iona Community

Prayers of the People

Led by Eve Saunders

May we hear your call to engage with the world,
May we become the change we want to see.

At the end

Amen

Greeting of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
We meet in Christ's name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We share a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory Hymn

The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed,
the sinners find place;
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory
to God all in all!

*Text: Bryn Rees (1911 - 1983),
Music: Melody and bass by William Croft (1678 - 1727)
in A Supplement to the New Version (1708)
Tune: Hanover*

Abiding

Preparation

Blessed are you, O God;
through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
May they be for us the foretaste of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

God of our longing,
God of our hoping,
it is good and right to praise you.

From the time of our forebears
you have journeyed with those who seek you
in openness and trust.

You inspired prophets to pursue justice,
to challenge the mighty
and liberate the oppressed.

Through John the baptiser
you taught us to lament our wrongdoings
and return to the way of forgiveness.

In Mary, the mother of faith,
you draw us into your passion
and reveal your peace.

With them, and with all who wait on you in hope,
it is good and right to praise you, and so we sing:

<i>Organ</i>	Congregation
	<p>Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of truth and love.</p>
	<p>Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -</p>
	<p>-san - nah in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who</p>
	<p>comes in the name of the Lord, Ho - san-nah in the high - est.</p>

Above all, we give you thanks
for revealing your salvation in Jesus Christ.
In him, we see the person you long for us to be,
through him, we feed on your wisdom and truth,
with him, we embrace your kingdom causes.

And now, in obedience to his command,
it is our duty and our joy,
to remember the night he gave himself up
and was handed over to death.

In the company of his friends,
Jesus took bread,
blessed it in God's holy name,
broke it and gave it to them, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.

Later, he took a cup of wine,
gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying,
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Do this to remember me.

God of our longing,
God of our hoping,
breathe your life-giving Spirit
into this bread and wine
that all who partake of this communion
may feed on Christ and taste his sacred hunger
for a world renewed by your promises
and fulfilled through your love.
Amen.

Ian Wallis

Lord's Prayer & Communion

**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.**

The bread is broken

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.**

Cantor
Congregation

Lamb of God you

Lamb of God you take a-way the
 Lamb of God you take a-way the
 Lamb of God you take a-way the

sins of the world, have mer-cy on us
 sins of the world, have mer-cy on us
 sins of the world, grant us your peace.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace

Words of invitation follow

Come, all who are weary and heavy-laden;
come, all who are dancing with joy;
come to the table
where sorrow and celebration belong together.



Wait for the Lord whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Text and music: Jacques Berthier (1923⁴⁹- 94)

The Choir sing Here is the Little Door

By Herbert Nowells (1892-1983)

*Here is the little door: Lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more
But enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or
sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head; All
for the child that stirs not in His sleep But holy slumber holds with ass and
sheep. Bend low about His bed: For each He has a gift; See how His eyes
awake! Lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword
(Defend with it thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red; Myrrh for
the honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched
by such tiny hands And Oh such tiny feet.*

Prayer of Commitment

**Grant us grace, O God,
to see through your eyes of compassion,
to speak your words of justice and peace,
to embody your forgiveness
that what we hope for,
long for, strive for,
may come a little closer,
bringing healing in its wings;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Announcements

To support the ministry of this church please use the card reader at the back of church or visit the website for more options.

Thank you.

Blessing

May the God who brings heaven close to earth
give truth to our judgement
and flame to our longing
that our hearts might be ready
to be born again in love;
And the blessing of God,
creator, saviour, spirit of peace
rest upon you, and all whom you love,
both living and departed, now and always.

Amen.

Steven Shakespeare⁵³

Final Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
dayspring from on high be near,
daystar in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

*Text: Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788),
Music: from Johann Gottlob Werner's Choralbuch, Leipzig (1815)
Tune: Ratisbon* ⁵⁶

Commission

God of our longing,
God of our hoping:
Eagerly we seek you.

Go in peace to prepare God's way:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary

Fughetta on 'Gottes Sohn ist kommen'

JS Bach (1685 - 1750)

Friendship Time

*Refreshments are served at the end of the service,
please stay if you can.*

*For those on Zoom, we hold a breakout group after the voluntary
to which you are welcome.*

Christmas Card Stalls - Today

International Committee Stall

Fair Trade cards and goods for Christmas

Amnesty Table

Find out about the Write for Rights Campaign
and write your card





Coffee concert
11:45 to 12:15
today

THINKING FAITH

Tonight at 7pm



Have we given up on Truth?

Hallvard Lillehammer

Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield

It is said we live in a post-truth era where sentiment and opinion hold sway, supported by disinformation, AI generated images, alternative facts and spin. Who or what can we trust? What are the implications for our democracy, public discourse and personal lives? What about religious or moral truth? Come and explore these questions with us.

St Mark's Church presents...

BIG QUEER CAROLS

14 December at 6pm

Broomfield Road S10 2SG

families welcome



Join us for drinks afterward!