



**10th December 2023**  
**Second Sunday of**  
**Advent with Baptism**  
**and Toy Service**



Welcome to our worship for Advent at St Matthew's.

If you are new to our church, please do complete one of our welcome cards so that someone can contact you after the service, or speak to a member of the team at the end of the service.

Children are welcome and there is an area in the church for parents with very young children – do feel free to use it.

Please silence your mobile phones before the service begins and take a few moments to sit in quiet while the organ plays and start to focus your thoughts on God, preparing yourself for worship.

If you wear hearing aids, please switch them to 'T' to access our loop.

Please join in the words in **bold print**.

## ¶ The Gathering

### ♪ Hymn (691) ♪

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to  
shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:  
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all the sons of want are blest.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown His head;  
His Name like incense shall arise  
with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748) based on Psalm 72*

## The lighting of the second advent candle

People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore;  
for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one in the love of  
Christ today and for ever.  
Amen.**

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

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets  
are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts  
by the inspiration of your  
Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your  
holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

### **Invitation to confession**

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.

*cf John 1.23*

God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord,  
Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying  
to the churches:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

## **The Collect**

*A period of silent prayer*

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and  
wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word  
of God as it comes to us in the reading  
of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

### **First Reading**

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **♪ Song (757) ♪**

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go;  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with You:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with You.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at along with me:

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
You'll be telling me the way, I know:  
Give me courage when the world is  
rough,  
keep me loving though the world is  
tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with You:  
You are older than the world can be,  
You are younger than the life in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with You:

*Sydney Carter (1915-2004)*  
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## Second Reading

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us stand to greet the  
Gospel of Christ.

## The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

### Liturgy of Baptism

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us  
that to enter the kingdom of heaven  
we must be born again of water and the  
Holy Spirit, and has given us baptism as  
the sign and seal of this new birth.  
Here we are washed by the blood of  
Christ and made clean.  
Here we are clothed with Christ, dying  
to sin that we may live his risen life.  
As children of God, we have a new  
dignity as God calls us to fullness  
of life in him.

### Presentation of the Candidates

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.  
Do not stop them'.

We thank God for Isabelle who has  
come to be baptised today.

Christ loves her and welcomes her into  
her Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support Isabelle as she begins  
her journey of faith?

**We will.**

Will you help her to live and grow  
within God's family?

**We will.**

God knows each of us by name and we  
are her. Parents and godparents, you  
speak for Isabelle today. Will you pray  
for her, and help her to follow Christ?

**We will.**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

## **Signing with the Cross**

*A minister makes the sign of the cross on Isabelle's forehead, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.  
You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him  
against all the powers of evil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to  
the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer over the Water**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We praise you, loving Father,  
for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptised in the River Jordan,  
where your Spirit came upon him  
and revealed him as the Son you love.  
He sent his followers

to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that Isabelle who is to be baptised in it may be cleansed by the blood of Jesus, washed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that she is loved as your child, safe in Christ for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Profession of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

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

**I believe and trust in him.**

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

**I believe and trust in him.**

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?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

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

## **Baptism**

Isabelle, I baptise you in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit.

**Amen.**

You have been clothed with Christ.  
As many as are baptised into Christ  
have put on Christ.

May God, who has received you by  
baptism into his Church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's  
pilgrim people you may daily be  
renewed by his anointing Spirit, and  
come to the inheritance of the  
saints in glory.

**Amen.**

## **Commission**

We have brought Isabelle to baptism  
knowing that Jesus died and rose again  
for her and trusting in the promise that  
God hears and answers prayer. We have  
prayed that in Jesus Christ she will  
know the forgiveness of her sins and  
the new life of the Spirit.

As she grows up, she will need the help  
and encouragement of the Christian  
community, so that she may learn to  
know God in public worship and private  
prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of  
faith, serve her neighbour after the  
example of Christ, and in due course  
come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all  
have a duty to support her by prayer,

example and teaching. As her parents  
and godparents, you have the prime  
responsibility for guiding and helping  
her in her early years. This is a  
demanding task for which you will need  
the help and grace of God. Therefore let  
us now pray for grace in guiding Isabelle  
in the way of faith.

## **Prayer**

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for Isabelle and  
grant them your gifts of love, wisdom  
and faith. Pour upon them your healing  
and reconciling love, and protect their  
homes from all evil.

Fill them with the light of your presence  
and establish them in the joy of your  
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Welcome**

There is one Lord, one faith,  
one baptism:  
Isabelle, by one Spirit we are all  
baptised into one body.

**We welcome you into the  
fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same  
heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

## **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

God has delivered us from the  
dominion of darkness and has given us a  
place with the saints in light.

Isabelle, you have received the light of  
Christ; walk in this light all the days of  
your life.

**Shine as a light in the world,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for...

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for...

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand*

### The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be  
always with you

**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign  
of God's peace.

*During the hymn please do bring any toys  
up to the altar*

### ♪ Hymn (748) ♪

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end;  
be Thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if Thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;

but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

○ let me hear Thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;

○ speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
○ speak, and make me listen,  
Thou guardian of my soul.

○ Jesus, Thou hast promised  
to all who follow Thee,  
that where Thou art in glory  
there shall Thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end:  
○ give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

○ let me see Thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own:  
my hope to follow duly  
is in Thy strength alone.  
○ guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory, the  
splendour,  
and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and  
on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give  
you.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer (A)**

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,  
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.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own  
possession.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

And now we give you thanks  
because you sent him to redeem us  
from sin and death and to make us  
inheritors of everlasting life;  
that when he shall come again in power  
and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing,  
and in confidence may stand before  
him.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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

**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.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:  
**Lord, by your cross and  
resurrection you have set us  
free. You are the Saviour  
of the world.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
give us your 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.**

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table,  
merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own  
righteousness,  
but in your manifold and  
great mercies.**

**We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the  
crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to  
have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious  
Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear  
Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be  
made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through  
his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore  
dwell in him and he in us.  
Amen.**

*Communicant members of any Christian Church are invited to receive Holy Communion. Children and those who are not confirmed are welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing please bow your head.*

## **♪ Anthem ♪**

## **♪ Hymn (787) ♪**

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of Thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is Thine own;  
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at Thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee.

*Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the  
world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first  
coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this  
sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the  
heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Hymn (719)**

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth You now bring  
us:

shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to Your awesome  
presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter Your  
brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness:  
shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here may our lives tell Your  
story:  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1987 Make Way  
Music*

### **Dismissal**

## **The Blessing**

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in  
spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you and  
all those whom you love and all those  
for whom you pray this day and for  
evermore.

**Amen.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

*Please take this service sheet with you.*

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