

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,  
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



# MEETING POINT

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
19th December 2021

***REMEMBERING MARY  
AS WE AWAIT THE LORD***



# Online Worship

## *Welcome to our Online Worship – Meeting Point*

*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,  
our Online Worship continues in 'Meeting Point' –  
we are joined together as one worshipping family through  
our services at home and in church through the seasons  
of the Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.*

*Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we  
explore readings from scripture and experiences from our  
day to day lives.*

*In this week's Advent service we remember Mary, who became the Christ-  
bearer, so that the love of God might be born as one of us.*

*It is led by members of our Ministry Team and congregations*



In many churches and homes we have an Advent candle ring during these four weeks. There is a candle for each Sunday with a special central candle to be lit on Christmas Day. You may wish to use your handicraft skills to make your own ring or perhaps to have a small single candle or tea-light to mark each week as you listen to and share in this service.

## ***The Welcome***

*Fr. Paul introduces today's service*

## ***Hymn***

**Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling  
the watchmen all the air are filling,  
arise, Jerusalem, arise!  
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,  
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,  
'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes in sight,  
raise high your torches bright!' Alleluia!  
The wedding song swells loud and strong:  
go forth and join the festal throng.**

Zion hears the watchmen shouting,  
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,  
she stands and waits with eager eyes;  
see her Friend from heaven descending,  
adorned with truth and grace unending!  
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.  
Now come, thou precious Crown,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son! Alleluia!  
Let us prepare to follow there,  
where in thy supper we may share.

### ***Acclamation - Brenda***



Jesus Christ is the Light of the World:  
**eternal light, shine in our hearts.**

Lord, open our eyes to your presence.  
**Come, Lord of light.**

Lord, open our ears to your call.  
**Come, Lord of light.**

Lord, open our hearts to your love.  
**Come, Lord of light.**

Lord, open our lives to your guiding.

### ***Lighting of the Advent Candle***

*You may like to light four candles at home, as today, we light four candles on the Advent Wreath, the first, the candle of hope, for all of God's faithful people, the second, the candle of peace, for all the prophets, and the women and men of vision, the third, the candle of joy, for John the Baptist and all those who tell out the Good News of God's love, and the fourth candle, the candle of love as we remember Mary, who became the Christ-bearer, so that the love of God might be born as one of us.*

Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in  
darkness  
but will have the light of life.'  
Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
**a light no darkness can quench.**



People of God: prepare!  
God, above all, maker of all,  
is one with us in Christ.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God,  
bends down in love to earth.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us,  
comes soon to the world he has made.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**



We are God's children,  
we seek the coming Christ.  
Maranatha!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

### ***Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - Brenda***

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## ***Bible Reading***– Luke 1:39-45 – *read by Lynda*

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

## ***Carol: Gabriel's Message sung by St Mary's Choir***

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;

"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,  
"most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:  
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.

Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;



"To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favoured maiden, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favoured maiden." Gloria!

## ***The latest news – and a girl's reaction***

Annette, a nurse with ante-natal and maternity experience talks about the joys and trials of pregnancy

## ***Meditation – Michelle***

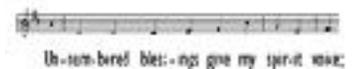
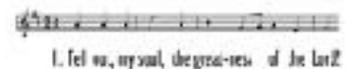
## ***Hymn***

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.**



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forevermore!**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) based on the Magnificat  
Music: WOODLANDS Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

## ***Prayers of Intercession*** – led by Lynne and David Pocock

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.  
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 our Blessed Lady Mary, John the Baptist and 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 Lord's Prayer***

*And so we pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words that Jesus himself taught us, saying:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## ***The Peace - Paul***

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.



*cf*  
*Luke 1.78,79*

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

## ***Choir of St. Mary's Church***

Wait for the Lord,  
whose day is near;  
wait for the Lord,  
be strong, take heart.

*Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)*

## ***Hymn***

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**



**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
O come quickly!  
Alleluia! come, Lord, come.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)  
Music: Melody adapted from John Wesley's Select Hymns with Tunes  
Annex, 1765*

### ***Final Prayer - Brenda***

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.

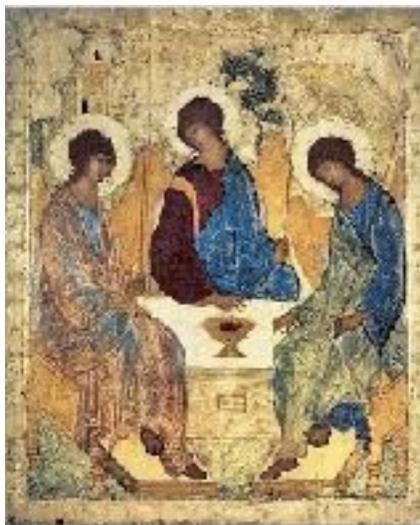
### ***The Blessing - Fr. Paul***

The love of the Father strengthen you,  
the love of Jesus surround you,  
the love of the Spirit guide you,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and your loved ones this day and for always.  
**Amen**





*Check out the weekly Newsheet via the website and keep up to date with all that's happening .  
Find more information on the website by visiting [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk) and go the 'Keeping in Touch' tab then select 'Newsletters' from the drop-down menu.*



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