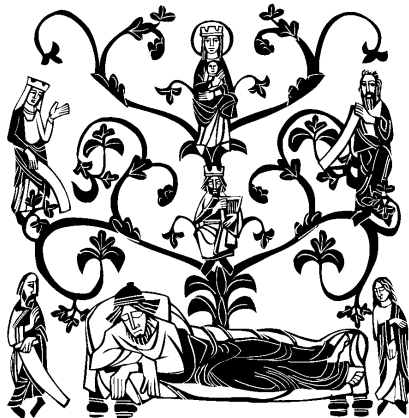


# ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD

## Advent Sunday

3rd December 2023 , 10am



**Welcome** to St Laurence's this morning. Today is Advent Sunday, and we begin a new church year, the year of St Mark. Today, we pray the God will tear the heavens open and come down, to save his people from their sins.

A warm welcome back to St Laurence's to Fr Paul Newman, curate at St Laurence's 1976-81, who is our preacher this morning.

The bible readings for this service can be found in the centrefold of this booklet. In Advent, we leave out the Gloria. The mass setting is the beautiful and simple setting by John Merbecke (written in 1550) - do join in.

As the clergy and servers enter church, we stand to sing the Advent prose:

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

1) Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

*Drop down...*

2) We have sinned and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

*Drop down...*

3) Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

*Drop down...*

4) Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry; I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions. Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy redeemer. *Drop down...*

**Entrance antiphon**

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

**Greeting and confession**

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

The priest welcomes everyone to St Laurence's  
and introduces the theme of the service.

We are invited to call to mind whatever  
we have done wrong in the sight of God.

After a moment of silence:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against each other  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of  
life to the glory of your name. Amen.

May almighty God have mercy up on you,  
forgive your sins  
and bring you to everlasting life. Amen

Our sins forgiven, we sing 'Lord, have mercy',  
each time following the choir:

Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.

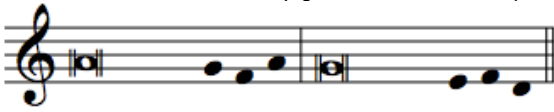
**The prayer of the day**

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Then everyone sits to listen to the Old  
Testament reading (the readings are printed  
out in the Centrefold of this booklet).

Afterwards, we all sing the psalm together.

Psalm 80 (QUI REGIS ISRAEL)



HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, \* thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep:

shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses:

stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

Turn us again, O God:

shew the light of thy countenance, \* and we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt:

thou hast cast out the heathen and planted it.

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand:

and upon the son of man, \* whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

And so will not we go back from thee:

O let us live,\* and we shall call upon thy Name.

Please remain seated for the New Testament reading, and then stand for the Advent responsory, the Gospel acclamation and the Gospel (Mark 13:33-37). During the Gospel acclamation, the first Advent candle is lit by a child.

Before the Gospel, the choir sing:

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti  
attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter:  
suaviter disponensque omnia:  
veni, ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

*(O wisdom, coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of truth.)*

**Alleluia, alleluia**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.

**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.**

After the Gospel, please be seated for the sermon. During the sermon, your children are very welcome to go to the Lady Chapel with all the other young people, to do some singing.

After the sermon, everyone stands to sing the creed, which is like the entire Christian faith in a very small nutshell.



We sing together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

For by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

For with His blood He purchased us for God, \*  
from every tribe and language, \*  
from every people and nation

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" \*  
Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen

We all sit or kneel for the prayers.

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

Please stand for the peace

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

You are welcome to smile at or wave or bow to  
your neighbour.

#### The offertory

Gifts of bread and wine are brought up to the altar. A collection is taken for the life and work of this church. If you already give to the church through your bank or on-line, as most of the congregation do, or have no cash on you, just pass the alms plate along as it comes past. If you'd like to give by card ask one of the churchwardens at the end of the service.

We stand to sing the offertory hymn

LOVE Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

### The prayer over the gifts

Accept, we pray O Lord, these offerings we make,  
gathered from among your gifts to us,  
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,  
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption  
Through Christ our Lord...

Amen

The priest invites the people to join in the  
eucharistic celebration, the *Great Thanksgiving*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,  
your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness  
to be our Saviour.

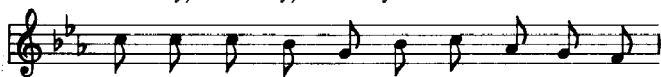
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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.

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



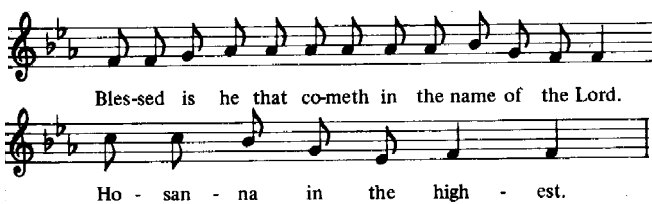
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.



Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry.



Glo - ry be to Thee O Lord most high.



Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body  
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.*

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.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the  
whole world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise & thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Laurence and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever **Amen.**



Remaining standing, we sing together the  
Lord's prayer:

*All*



Our Fa - ther, who art in heav'n, hal - lowed  
be thy name; thy king-dom come; thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.  
And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion;  
but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is  
the king - dom, the power and the glo - ry,  
for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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.

Please kneel. While the bread is broken, we  
sing:



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way  
the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way  
the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Behold the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The priest will say to all: The body of Christ and  
everyone who intends to receive communion  
replies together: *Amen*.

All who are prepared and are accustomed  
to receiving holy communion are invited to  
join with us this morning. Please follow the  
guidance of the churchwardens, who will invite  
you to the front of the church to receive if  
you wish.

Please receive the host standing. Reception of  
the Chalice is optional. If you wish to receive  
the Blood of Christ, please drink directly from  
the Cup. If you choose not receive the chalice,  
please pause to acknowledge the Blood of  
Christ (e.g. by a slight bow).

#### Anthem

O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
Dignare clemens supplicum  
Laudes precesque sumere.  
Qui carne quondam contegi  
Dignatus es pro perditis,  
Nos membra confer effici  
Tui beati corporis.

(O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise  
and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the  
sake of the lost,  
grant us to be members of thy blessed body.)

*music: Jamie Hall*

#### Communion hymns

When wilt thou save the people?  
O God of mercy when?  
The people, Lord, the people,  
Not thrones and crowns but men!  
Flowers of thy heart, O God are they;  
Let them not pass, like weeds, away—  
Their heritage a sunless day.  
God save the people.

Shall crime bring crime for ever,  
Strength aiding still the strong?  
Is it thy will, O Father,  
That man shall toil for wrong?  
“No,” say thy mountains; “No,” thy skies,  
Man’s clouded sun shall brightly rise,  
And songs be heard instead of sighs.  
God save the people.



When wilt thou save the people:  
O God of mercy, when?  
The people, Lord, the people,  
Not thrones and crowns, but men!  
God save the people; thine they are,  
Thy children, as thy Angels fair;  
From vice, oppression, and despair,  
God save the people!



JUST as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings within, and fears without,

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea all I need, in thee to find,

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
Because thy promise I believe,

Just as I am (thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down),  
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
Here for a season then above,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

*Charlotte Elliott*

### **Communion Antiphon**

*The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

May these mysteries, O Lord,  
in which we have participated,  
profit us, we pray,  
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,  
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven  
and hold fast to what endures.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

After this prayer, please be seated for the  
Church notices.

Please stand for God's blessing and remain  
standing for the final hymn.

Go in the peace of Christ: Thanks be to God.

LO! HE COMES with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing  
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

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!  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Please remain in your seat until the organist has finished playing the voluntary.

After the service, you are warmly invited to go through to the Church Hall to join us for tea and coffee.

As you leave the church you will find extra collection buckets for your donations that will go to help the Anglican and other Christian communities in Palestine, who are having a terrible time at present. Please be generous.

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### Church Notices

#### **This evening: Carol Service**

At 6pm, our ecumenical advent carol service sung by our choir, with friends from Holy Cross Church. This is always a beautiful service, with rich music and the great Old Testament readings that speak of the coming of the Messiah – all in a warm and dark church lit only by candlelight. Do come, and bring your friends too. Refreshments afterwards in the church hall.

#### **This week**

**Wednesday** (St Nicholas): Mass at 10.30am, followed by refreshments, preceded by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Thursday** (St Ambrose): mass at 9.45am, followed by 'knit and natter' in the choir vestry from 10.30am.

#### **Also on Thursday: Preparing for Christmas**

There will be an Advent reflection evening open to anyone who worships in an East Lewisham Parish (including St Laurence's) hosted by the Sisters of St Andrew, 99 Belmont Hill, this Thursday, 7.30–9pm. The Sisters have a lovely home that they open to local people, and you would be assured of a warm welcome. Details on noticeboard. To book a place, email: [eastlewishamdeanery@gmail.com](mailto:eastlewishamdeanery@gmail.com), or talk to Richard in the parish office.

The anthem today ('O natalux') has been made available by the composer as a **fundraiser for Macmillan cancer support**. If you'd like to donate, please scan this QR



## Next Sunday

**Advent II** (December 10th): mass will be a family mass, followed by our annual Advent Fair.

We'll have our usual combination of food, stalls and entertainment, including a hand-knitted craft stall, courtesy of our Knit and Natter group. Perfect presents!

• Next Sunday will see the return of Jocelyn, our Director of Music, at the end of her maternity leave. Elspeth will also be with us for the last time in her official capacity, and so we will have a chance to say Welcome Back to Jocelyn, and a huge Thank You to Elspeth for all her work with the choir and congregation over the last 12 months.

**Advent III** (December 17th): our preacher will be **Mtr. Elaine Dando**, whose husband Stephen (also a priest) was churchwarden at St Laurence's at much the same time as Fr Paul was curate.

**Advent IV** this year is Christmas Eve, December 24th; and so we'll need lots of help please – we have just the afternoon to turn round the church from the drab colours of Advent to the brilliant decoration of Christmas.

### Christmas Carol services

On December 17th, we have our **Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight**. As well as our own choir and minichoir, we will have singers from Rushey Green School, Cats Chorus and Lewisham Choral Society. So this will be a true choral feast, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall afterwards.

### December 31st: Watchnight Service

Come and see in the New Year on your knees! Vigil service here at St Laurence's on December 31st at 11pm. This is one of the most popular services of the year; all are welcome. We hope to have refreshments afterwards in the coffee bar – we're looking for volunteers to help with this please.

### Giving to the Church

To give to St Laurence's, please scan this QR code here, or ask the churchwardens for the credit card machine.



### Big cars

If the Lord has blessed you with a big car to drive, please park it at **the back of the church** or in the overflow carpark, not down the side of church, where it will inconvenience minibuses and drivers of other big cars.

### Saturday Newsletter

Every Saturday evening Fr Charles sends out the latest news from around the parish. Go to the parish website ([stlaurencecatford.org.uk](http://stlaurencecatford.org.uk)) and click on the link where it says 'subscribe to the newsletter'. Or scan this QR code:



### USB chargers

If you have an unused USB phone charger at home, we'd be most grateful if you could donate it.

### Reading lessons in church

If you would like to read in church, please have a word with Corinne Browne-Marke, or email her at [reading@stlaurencecatford.org.uk](mailto:reading@stlaurencecatford.org.uk), or even better, join the reading-lessons-in-church whatsapp group.

## For your prayers

**among the sick:** Myrna Perkins, Beverley & John Lashley, Taleta Haye, Minette Stevens, Sarah Cole, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Marcia Sanderson, Ottis Edwards, Elaine Stanislaus, Marcia Wilson, Robert Green, Roy Brown, Kayla Brown, Ros Ovbiobio, Marva Mayne, Natasha Joseph, Degus Vassell, Anita Greenidge, Thelma Corbin, Beverley Willacy, Ernie Brown, Kevin Counihan, Charles Gasa, Josette Owens, Everton White, Elaine Thompson-Dixon, Everton Bend, Annette Cox-Simmons, Selena Goodyear, Ron & Kay Lanston, Esme Francis, Girda Carty, Cheyne Reid, Verna Cox, Daphne Moore, Leon Haynes, Elizabeth Halfpenny, Tanya Muchanyuka, Mason White, David Staples, Fran Chappell.

**recently departed:** Chantelle Scott

**anniversaries:** 4th Anna Morgan, Bob Knight; 5th Beatrice Ward, William James Hughes, Ida Sim-mons; 6th Robina John; 7th Nellie Bryce, Edith Pullen; 8th George Mason, Aubrey Gaskin

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## ST LAURENCE CHRISTMAS CARD BOOKLET

At St Laurence, it has become a tradition that each Christmas, instead of sending lots of cards to our friends at Church, many people pay for an entry in the Church Christmas card booklet, which is distributed free to all members of the congregation. The profit from this booklet is then sent to Charity.

This year we are supporting the Anglican church in the Holy Land. Many Christians are now homeless, and those who can are leaving the Holy Land in large numbers – these are people who have been living there for countless generations. This seems a very appropriate charity to be collecting for this Christmas.

All it will cost you is a minimum donation of £3. (But any additional donations welcome). If you would like to book your entry in the booklet, please fill in the form below and return to the Churchwardens today or next Sunday, 10th December with your donation. (You're welcome to use the card machine if you have no cash with you).

Please write legibly!



Name:

Greeting:

Choice of illustration (if any):

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**Today's sidespersons team:** Sybil Bair, John Lashley, Florence Browne-Marke, Jeni Griffith

**Today's chalice team:** Joan, Cheryl

### Contact us

**Parish Clergy:** Fr Charles: 020 8698 2871,

**Parish Office** (Richard Swann): 020 8698 9706

e: [info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk](mailto:info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk) w: [stlaurencecatford.org.uk](http://stlaurencecatford.org.uk)