

Welcome to this  
**Advent 4 (The Virgin Mary)**  
Sunday Communion Service



The online services are a combination the service sheet with links to Revd Steven, the hymns, music,

**Instructions:** [Ctrl-Click on the links in blue](#) to activate hymns and films as you read through the service. If an Error message comes up just wait and the link will start.

All the links on this online **service** can be seen on one playlist ctrl click link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACzH\\_IIRfneiDZJ9zA3YCGyH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACzH_IIRfneiDZJ9zA3YCGyH)

**For the Zoom service, see notices at the end of this service sheet**

*Welcome*

Welcome our 40<sup>th</sup> week of online services.

*Hymn 1:* Christ is surely coming

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuN3nMM\\_ZGE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuN3nMM_ZGE)

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.**

*Lighting of the Advent Ring:* by Zanny Lawrence

[https://youtu.be/6e\\_eNXzWQzw](https://youtu.be/6e_eNXzWQzw)

We have this Advent Ring to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world:

*The forth Candle is lit:*

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who told God she would obey.



God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

**Amen**

## Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we  
have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour, 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.**

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.

**All Amen.**

*Gloria*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6ijmVV3GZoIE>

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen**

### *The Collect*

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our  
saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*Reading 1* 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 by Pam Grimes

<https://youtu.be/RoiZTWw0eV8>

### **God's promise to David**

**7** After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.'

<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, 'Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.'

<sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

<sup>5</sup> 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD says: are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"

<sup>8</sup> 'Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them any more, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders<sup>[a]</sup> over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me<sup>[a]</sup>; your throne shall be established for ever.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Reading 2* Romans 16.25-27 By Mike Grimes  
<https://youtu.be/73NzHM2mYrU>

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from<sup>[a]</sup> faith – <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**



*Hymn 2* He came down that we may have love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLLiMcxOmmE>

*Gospel Reading* Luke 1.26-38 by Zanny Lawrence

<https://youtu.be/y-DsdpBYEYU>

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to *Luke*.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **The birth of Jesus foretold**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him

the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

<sup>34</sup> 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.'

<sup>38</sup> 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon* from Revd Steven Poss

### **Sermon – Mary, the God-dweller & bearer**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear of the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary. This long awaited promise of God which we hear of in our first reading from 2 Samuel 7 is proclaimed by Paul in our second reading from Romans, chapter 16:-

*<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.*

As we give thanks to Mary for her obedience and acceptance is responding favourably to the angel Gabriel, the word of God will be born among and live among us like he did with his people in the ark in our reading from 2 Samuel 7. Here David wanted to build God a house which came about through his son Solomon and the building of the Temple. But

God cannot be contained to one place, the heavens cannot even contain him.

So we then hear of God about coming to dwell in a new ark, setting the captives free and releasing prisoners from sin and death, an action that only a loving merciful God can do. The impossible has been set in motion with the conception of John the Baptist, but now the vision must be brought to fruition through human free choice. Gabriel's dialogue with Mary awaits her word.

*<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

William Bausch tells of a custom in the Middle Ages. At that time, monks and most of the populace could not read or write, but every morning in monasteries and chapels many of them would meet around a Bible. It would be opened, and in silence they would wait for the Word to be spoken and read aloud. The one who could read would slowly tell the story of God's words in the world, reading a single passage. He would do this again and again, until all had departed and there was no one to listen to the

Word of the Lord. Each monk or visitor left when they had secured what they needed to reflect upon for the day. The Word invaded their minds, hearts and bodies and they took it with them into their work, study and interactions as well as their prayer. With the Word within them, they were ready to live in the Spirit and let that Word transform their own flesh and blood. (Source: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany – Megan McKenna).

Like St Nicholas (AKA Santa), the Word of God needs to be carried by us in our daily lives, as we look at our world through the compassionate eyes of God which the Holy Spirit enables us to do and follow that up with action, like St Nicholas did all those years to putting presents down the chimney of the needy family.

Like Paul when he first had the encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul went away to Arabia for around 3 years we understand to make sense of what happened to him. As we hear the Christmas story again, parts of it will speak to us afresh in our lives and some of it may not. It is difficult to try and make sense of God because his ways are different to our ways, but this we do know that he wants to

come and dwell with us and make his home amongst us.

This is a reason to rejoice this Christmas, as we are faced with many challenges and this joy cannot be taken away from us. This Christmas time, may we like Mary be open to hearing the good news from above and make space in ourselves for God to come and dwell. **Amen.**

*Profession of faith*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

**Amen**



*Hymn 3:* When Out of Poverty is Born

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzwyjnACz0o>

## *Prayers of Intercession*

Intercessions: for 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Advent 4  
by Theresa Reed

Dear Lord we come before you in humility bringing our concerns, concerns for the world; for all people especially in this country of ours; for our families and friends; for those in distress; for those who are sick and for those who are in mourning.

As we head towards the end of 2020, we look back with sorrow at the lives that were ended prematurely; with dismay that we are not at the end of this pandemic but with hope that there may be 'light at the end of the tunnel' with vaccination in prospect.

We pray for all those working for the health service who are exhausted by their work this year; for those who work in the Test and Trace system, may they keep finding those infected people who need to self isolate; and for our politicians having to make harsh decisions about COVID restrictions.

Lord in your mercy

### **Hear our prayer**

Within a few short weeks we will be out of the EU, a trade deal still seems a long way off so let us pray for our negotiators; for our importers and exporters and for all travellers as they get to cope with new regulations and restrictions. Dear Lord we ask that you give strength and encouragement when they need it most.

Lord in your mercy

### **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for our new Bishop of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, currently Bishop of Loughborough. As we look forward to welcoming her to Essex, we pray for her and her family in the hope that we can all grow in the love and knowledge of Christ.

Lord in your mercy

### **Hear our prayer**

Now let us hold in our prayers all those who are sick and need God's healing hand, we pray for;

Rick Embling



Ernest Norman  
Molly Garwood  
Mike Batt  
Irene Johnson  
Beryl Dixon  
Sarah Maher  
David Garlick  
Tony Gibson  
Jean Webber  
Jean Winn  
Cally Thorpe  
Josh Pitman  
Georgia  
Andy Smith

We pray for the continuing recovery of Kath Bellingham.

We pray too for all living and working in our care homes – Down Hall and The Swan, where we know there has been an outbreak of COVID, keep them safe Lord.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

May those who have lost loved ones know your love no matter how long ago that person was lost or in what circumstances, help us care for those needing love and understanding.

We pray for those who have died and we pray for their family and friends at this time.

Especially Elaine Spicer and family after the death of her mother Betty Bland.

We continue to pray for the life Freda Eyre. We pray for Graeme and Kimberly and all the family.

We pray that your loving presence will give them all comfort and peace at this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy

### **Hear our prayer**

Bless us dear Lord as we live our daily lives this week, keep us, and those we love, safe. Walk

beside us when we venture out, sit beside us when we rest and lay beside us when we sleep.

We ask these prayers safe in the knowledge that you are always listening, always forgiving and always loving.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Hymn 4* For Mary, Mother of our Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWS-Jtaly7w&t=85s>

*Revd Steven link;*

<https://youtu.be/0wzZ8mNSM80>

*The Peace*

May the peace of the Lord Jesus go with you,  
wherever He may take you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing in the wonders  
He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into  
our doors.

The Peace of our Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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. Amen.**



*The Lord's Prayer*

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*

*The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

### *Giving of Communion*

*The president and people receive communion.*

### *Prayer after communion*

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.

### *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.

**All Amen.**

*Dismissal*

With love and compassion,

**come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy,

**come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory,

**come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth,

**come, Lord Jesus.**

*Revd Steven link ends*

*Final Hymn* The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzC9dxwRddc>

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*Final Music* Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjjSttZEh4I>



## Notices

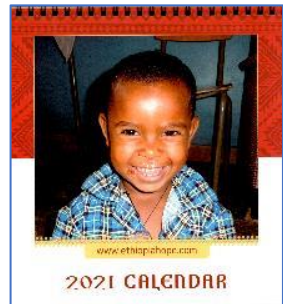
1. These **Online Services** will continue for those wanting to continue worshipping at home.  
(To view this service playlist, ctrl click below, come back to this sheet for the sermon and the prayers for today)

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACzH\\_IIRfneiDZJ9zA3YCGyH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACzH_IIRfneiDZJ9zA3YCGyH)

## Ethiopia Hope Calendars

<http://www.ethiopiahope.com/>

Mike and Angie have produced these 2021 calendars in aid of the charity we support at St Thomas'. If anyone would like a wall or desktop calendar for £3 each please contact **Theresa Reed on 776247** or Mike and Angie:



## Advent 4

### Amazon Smile

If you shop on Amazon please use this link to use the Cemetery Gale bequest as your chosen charity!

[smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/210341-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/210341-0)

or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to Bradwell-On-Sea Parish Church, Gale Bequest Fund at no extra cost.

## **Notices**

**Downing Street has announced that the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani will be the next Bishop of Chelmsford.**

Bishop Guli is currently Bishop of Loughborough in the Diocese of Leicester, a post she has held since late 2017. [Watch Bishop Guli's video message.](#)

**The Dean of Chelmsford will be leading an online service from Chelmsford Cathedral at 10,30am on the 27 December. The service will be broadcast on the Cathedral Facebook page.**

**The Church of England has launched its annual Christmas film**, with a message of Comfort and Joy after a year like no other.

**Diocese resources to support worship at home during Advent and Christmas**

These resources for families can be found here:

[Worshipping at home with Comfort and Joy this Christmas | Chelmsford Diocese \(anglican.org\)](#)

**Pastoral Care Course**

If anyone is interested in joining a course on pastoral care, an online 10 week course via zoom,

will begin in January. Please contact Revd Steven if you are interested.

### **New Worship Leaders Course**

The Revd Asa Humphreys at Heybridge and Langford is looking to run a 6 week course over zoom starting in January, for those who are interested in leading worship services. If you are interested in this, please let Revd Steven know.

### **Spiritual Communion – Live via zoom at 9am on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Dec 20, 2020 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74857037318?pwd=VEVoZmpibWNDaW1iRnRXVHgwEg4UT09>

Meeting ID: 748 5703 7318

Passcode: d8kCRZ

**Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 31 and 32 / Time: Monday December 21, 2020 07:30 PM London**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 31 and 32

Time: Dec 21, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72804377702?pwd=VFprbFkrSEFmck8rUWhXbkVVNDdzZz09>

Meeting ID: 728 0437 7702

Passcode: N7uDW5

**Four speakers will each take one panel of the medieval window to explore the traditional Advent themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell**

[Webinar Events for Advent: Apocalypse Now \(and then\) | York Minster](#)