The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Ross-on-Wye



An Advent Carol Service

Sunday 1st December 2024 5.00pm Our service moves broadly from west to east in the church and from darkness to light.

There are four main themes in the service. We hear:

- Old Testament prophesy, in the Nave and Chancel
- The message of St John the Baptist, by the font
- The Annunciation to Mary, in the Markye Chapel
- Finally, in a blaze of light in the Sanctuary, the words of Jesus himself proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The servers, clergy and choir will process, members of the congregation remain seated in the nave.

Candles are an important symbol in the service, but we ask you to be careful to keep them well away from service papers, clothing and other people. We have given you a very safe option, but as they contain batteries, please be careful with very young children.

In the event of a fire please leave the church calmly by the north or south doors in the nave, or by the door in the chancel.

There are no announcements once the service starts.



If you use a hearing aid, we have an excellent hearing loop; please switch to the T position if you have one.



The church is deliberately dark; you may find it easier to view this order of service backlit on your phone.

You can do that by showing this QR code to your phone's camera then following the link (rossparishes.uk/oos)

Please take this service sheet home with you if you wish to.

Organ music before the service: Nun komm der heiden Heiland - JS Bach, BWV 661 (1685 – 1750)

ORDER OF SERVICE

The church is in darkness. After an informal welcome, please remain seated while the choir, in the distance from the choir vestry, sings the

Matin Responsory

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Early Medieval Catholic Mattins

Adapted from a Magnificat by G D Palestrina (c1525 – 1594)

The congregation **remains seated** during the singing of the next hymn by the choir, as servers, choir and clergy process to the top of the Nave.

Processional Hymn

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth: let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

St Ambrose (c340 – 397) translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light, where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free, whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Ghost for, evermore. Amen

> PUER NOBIS NASCITUR Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)

Bidding Prayer

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's Kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that, when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our anthems and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first, we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over. And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his Kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying together:

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

Priest: And may the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting,

now and at all times.

All: Amen

During the next hymn candles are lit in the nave. Please switch on your candle. **All remain standing and sing the**

Hymn

Bright the vision that delighted once the sight of Judah's seer; sweet the countless tongues united to entrance the prophet's ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated cherubim and seraphim filled his temple, and repeated each to each the alternate hymn:

"Lord, thy glory fills the heaven; earth is with its fullness stored; unto thee be glory given, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord."

Richard Mant 1767–1848 Based on Isaiah 6.1-6 Heaven is still with glory ringing, earth takes up the angels' cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy," singing, "Lord of Hosts, the Lord most high."

With his seraph train before him, with his holy Church below, thus unite we to adore him, bid we thus our anthem flow:

"Lord, thy glory fills the heaven; earth is with its fullness stored; unto thee be glory given, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord."

> LAUS DEO R Redhead 1820-1901

All sit for the

First Reading - Isaiah 6.1-11a

God commissions Isaiah as the prophet of the Advent

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not

comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?"

Thanks be to God

Please **remain seated** while the choir sings the

Carol

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Revelation 22 adapted by Ruth Manz

Rejoice in heaven all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

All remain seated

Second Reading - Jeremiah 23.3-6

The Lord promises to send a righteous king

Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Processional Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high; and close the path to misery:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the Law, in cloud, and majesty and awe:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

John Mason Neale 1818-1866 Translated from Latin Advent Antiphons VENI EMMANUEL Adapted from a "French Missal" by Thomas Helmore 1811-1890

All sit

Third Reading - Isaiah 60, 1-11

The Prophet declares good news to a people in exile

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the

flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Thanks be to God

All **remain seated** while the choir sings the

Anthem

O radiant dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied, the people who walked in darkness have seen the great light upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

O radiant dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Amen.

Antiphon for 21st December - 'O Oriens'

James MacMillan (b1959)

All **remain seated** for the

Fourth Reading - Haggai 2.6-9

The Prophet Isaiah foretells the Kingdom of God

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts. *Thanks be to God*

Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The procession moves to the font. Candles are lit at the west end of the nave. **All stand** and sing the

Processional Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

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.

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 sets thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749 Translated by John Chandler 1806-76 WINCHESTER NEW Adapted from a chorale Hamburg 1690

Fifth Reading - Luke 1.5-17

The birth of John the Baptist is foretold

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Remain seated as the choir sings the

Anthem

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

Collect for St John the Baptist

Almighty God, who called your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of your Son in birth and death: strengthen us by your grace that, as he suffered for the truth, so we may boldly resist corruption and vice and receive with him the unfading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The procession moves to the Markye Chapel where candles are lit. **All stand** and sing the

Processional 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 to 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 for evermore!

Sixth Reading - Luke I.26-38

The Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 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.

Thanks be to God

Carol

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 lady." Gloria!

"For known, A blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favoured lady." 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 lady, Gloria!

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

Music: arr. Edgar Pettman

Words translated by S. Baring Gould

Remain seated for the

Collect for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

The procession moves to the Sanctuary. Candles in the sanctuary are lit. **All stand** and sing the

Processional Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thy all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

CROSS OF JESUS John Stainer 1840-1901

All sit

Seventh Reading - Mark 1.1-15

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean

countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Thanks be to God

Remain seated for the

Anthem

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine; gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin: our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

All stand

Vesper Responsory

Priest: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed:

All: Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord he will be with you.

Priest: Stand ye still and ye shall see the salvation of our God:

Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord he will be with you.

Priest: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:

Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord he will be with you.

Priest: We wait for thy loving kindness O Lord:

All: In the midst of thy temple.

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. **Amen.**

Remain standing for the

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.

Charles Wesley 1707–88 and John Cennick 1718-55

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,
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come.

HELMSLEY melody noted by T Olivers 1725–99 arranged by David Willcocks 1919-2015

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Saturday 7 th December Border Belles Christmas Concert	7.00pm
Sunday 8 th December Choral Evensong for Advent Join us for one of the jewels of the Church of England	6.00pm
Saturday 14 th December	
Ross Choral Society – Handel: Messiah	7.00pm
Tuesday 17th December Blue Christmas Carol Service A service without the bling, for those feeling sad at Christmas	2.00pm
Saturday 21st December	
Carols under the Spire (carols & refreshments in the churchyard) Ross Choristers Christmas Concert	5.30pm 7.00pm
Sunday 22 nd December Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight One of the high points of Christmas at St Mary's	4.00pm
Monday 23 rd December	
Carols under the Spire (carols & refreshments in the churchyard)	5.30pm
Christmas Eve Crib Service (children's service) "Midnight Mass"	4.00pm 11.30pm
Christmas Day	
Said Communion	8.00am
Sung Eucharist for Christmas Morning	9.30am