



2024 - 'Following Jesus in Loving Community' *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* - 22nd December 2024

Please Note! This service is also broadcast live on YouTube at 10:00am.

Visit: www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaulongridge/streams

Welcome and introduction

THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit as we remember Mary the Mother of Jesus.

Blessed are you sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be glory and praise for ever! Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary. Grant that we, who have seen your glory, may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

First Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew

Christ would come born a Jew,
Come to make all things new,
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human:
Ring bells ...

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid,
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected:
Ring, bells ...

Journey ends: where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar,
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour do not tarry.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes,
We will make him welcome.*

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

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.
Amen.

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

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

'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'

Gloria!

'For known a blessèd 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 pleaseth 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!

*Paraphrased by Saine Baring-Gould
(1834-1924)*

*Arranged by Charles Degar Pettman
(1866-1943)*

Gospel Reading

Luke 1 : 39– 45

Alleluia, alleluia

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

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke

Glorify to you, O Lord.

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and
hurried to a town in the hill country of
Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered
Zechariah's home and greeted
Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her
womb, and Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she
exclaimed: "Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the child you
will bear!

⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn during preparation of the Table

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us,
You are one with us, Mary's son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring Your love and goodness in:
Jesus, our love for You we sing -
Living Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
Teach us how to pray, Son of God;
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of You:
Into our lives Your power breaks through
- Living Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us,
Born as one of us, Mary's son;
Led out to die in Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free:
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to You,
Live my life for You, Son of God;
All Your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new:
Into my life Your power breaks through
- Living Lord!

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)

We do not pass a collection plate during the Offertory, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work, ministry and maintenance of the Parish, there is provision at the back of church for donations in cash, weekly envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone using the reader at the back of the church. Thank you.

The choir will sing during the distribution of Communion

Final Hymn

For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God adored,
As on her child she gazed.

Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,
Though hard the task assigned,
And by the Holy Ghost conceived
The Saviour of mankind.

The busy world had got no space
Or time for God on earth;
A cattle manger was the place
Where Mary gave him birth.

She gave her body as God's shrine,
Her heart to piercing pain;
She knew the cost of love divine,
When Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee
There comes a joy and holiness
To every family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
And blest your Son, whom your
embrace
In birth and death confessed

JR Peacey (1896-1971)

organ voluntary :

Toccata: Fiat Lux (Let there be light) -
Théodore Dubois (1837 - 1924)

Those Departed - Rest In Peace

Pauline Phoenix
Audrey Scambler
Carole Rhona Gunnell
George Partridge



**The Valley Singers
Christmas Family Concert**

TODAY -Sunday 22nd December at
St. Lawrence's Church, Chapel Hill

Seasonal songs and carols

Starts at 2:30pm.

Free admission with collection for
Longridge's Historic Lychgate.

Refreshments incl. mulled wine &
mince pies .

Extra parking at St. Cecilia's School

Brew Time

**Please Note! Will now re-open
Wednesday 8th January 2025.**

Wishing all our customers a
Merry Christmas & a Prosperous
New Year 2025.

Kath & Jacqui, Bev & John



St Lawrence
with **St Paul**
Longridge

Next Week's Services -

24th Dec - Christmas Eve - Crib Service 5:00 - 6:00pm - St. Paul's

24th Dec - Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion 11:30pm - St. Lawrence's

25th Dec - Christmas Day - Early Christmas Communion - 8:00am St. Lawrence's

25th Dec - Christmas Day - 'All Together HC Service' - 10:00am St. Lawrence's

25th Dec - Christmas Day - 'NO EVENING SERVICE' - at St. Lawrence's

29th Dec—First Sunday of Christmas

10:00am 'Service of Holy Communion' at St. Paul's Church/ Live stream

6:30pm 'Service of Evensong' at St. Lawrence's Church