



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

*18th December 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday. There is also a reflection by our Curate, The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, published separately on the website, the text of which is included in the service.

The service will be in two parts. Our Reader, Jane Quarmby, will lead us through the Ministry of the Word. After the Peace, Roxana will celebrate the Eucharist and we will share in an act of Spiritual Communion, the prayer used where it is not possible for communicants physically to receive consecrated bread and wine.

The Gathering

The minister says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcE8BTskILY>

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.

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:
 Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)

Tune: Helmsley – John Wesley (1765)

Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**

The Advent Wreath

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and the following prayer is said:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory 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 the Lord and Saviour of all.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Prayers of Penitence

The minister says

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.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

All **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.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The celebrant says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect

The minister says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat – The Song of Mary

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *
 he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; *
 the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, *
 from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm *
 and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones *

and lifting up the lowly.

- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, *
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

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

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.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made,
Which our redemption won.

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 blessed;
And blest your Son, whom your embrace
In birth and death confessed.

Words: John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)
Tune: St Botolph – Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1.18-end

The minister says

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

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child

from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

The countdown to Christmas has begun. Yet it is not too late to get Christmas right this year!

There are people who start planning for Christmas quite early and spend Advent, and even some time before that, busily writing cards, decorating the house and the tree, baking, buying presents, organising Christmas dinners and entertainment – and then, perhaps, comes the moment when they realise, in bewilderment, that life doesn't go according to plan.

If you are one of them, I dare you to imagine a different way of preparing for Christmas ... next year. One that cannot be rushed. Advent unfolds as it unfolds, Christmas comes when it comes – stop rushing and let something within each of us unfold slowly. These days, this is so foreign to many of our expectations.

This is how the story of the birth of Jesus unfolded – a story about the arrival of something foreign to people's expectations, a story of surprising and unexpected events, of lives that didn't go according to plan: God entered the world and changed humankind forever.

God came to a humble girl and chose her to be Christ's mother. God came to a humble carpenter and asked him to offer life-long protection to mother and child. It is a story about a twin "yes" to God.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we honour Mary and rejoice in her "yes" to God, a response that came from the heart of all she was. For the faithful, Mary is the God-bearer, a symbol of meekness – and a symbol of strength, at the same time. To God, Mary is the favoured one. The Lord is with her before she is asked to bear the Christ, and before she agrees.

Today we can also give thanks for the determined obedience of Joseph. Indeed, every third year, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the lectionary – that is, the listing of Scripture readings appointed for worship on a given day or occasion – turns the spotlight away from the Virgin, and brings Joseph, her would-be husband, to centre-stage. If we are tempted to side-line Joseph as a minor character in the Christmas narrative, the Gospel of Matthew reminds us that, in fact, Joseph's role in Jesus's arrival is pivotal. A carpenter, an unassuming descendant of King David. Betrothed to Mary, when the story begins, he probably was making plans for the wedding and their life together.

And then, Matthew tells us, Joseph learns to his cost that life doesn't go according to plan. Mary is found to be with child. A few words, yet what human drama and turmoil they hint at. Joseph knows for sure that he is not the father. His expectations are shattered. "What's to be done about Mary?", as a contemporary Christmas song says.

Joseph has no good options to choose from. If he calls attention to Mary's supposed infidelity, she will be stoned to death, as Levitical law proscribes. If he divorces her quietly, she might be reduced to begging or, worse, to prostitution, to support herself and the child.

Matthew doesn't go into much detail about Joseph's turmoil. However, in a text from the 2nd century which wasn't included in the canon of the Scripture, the Protoevangelium of James, we are given a more complex picture of the carpenter's anguish. When learning about Mary's pregnancy, he throws himself on the ground, strikes his own face, and cries bitterly. He wonders how to respond and asks Mary why she has betrayed both him and God.

If we assume that Joseph's acceptance of God's plan came easily, we distort his humanity. God chose him to be Jesus' earthly father, and this led the righteous man into doubt, shame, and scandal. God required Joseph to embrace a complex situation

he had not created, to reorder his life, to marry a woman whose story he didn't understand, and protect a baby who was not his son. Yet accepting to do so, Joseph allows God's plan of salvation to unfold.

Mary and Joseph were given the sign of a child whose name is Emmanuel, "God with us". The promise of this child is both comforting and disturbing. After all, what does it mean that God is with us, being a part of our lives?

God is with us. This promise begins Matthew's Gospel and stands again at its conclusion, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (28.20). Jesus is the fulfilment of all of God's promises which frame each day of our lives, just as they frame the Gospel.

Mary responded to this sign of Emmanuel with praise, thanksgiving, and grateful joy. We have said together the words of the Magnificat, Mary's Song: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Luke 1.46). Mary's testimony to God's faithfulness is not solitary and private - she is conscious that her life is framed in the history of salvation. Thus, she can say: "[The Lord] has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation" (Luke 1.50). The Virgin gives a voice to all those redeemed after her "yes", those who in Jesus Christ find the mercy of God.

St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan in the 4th century, invites us: "In the heart of each one may Mary praise the Lord, in each may the spirit of Mary rejoice in the Lord; if, according to the flesh, Christ has only one mother, according to faith all souls engender Christ." Not only must we offer Christ a dwelling in our souls and in our lives, but we must take him to the world, so that we too might engender Christ for our times.

The name of the Christ child is Emmanuel, "God with us". The story cannot unfold without Mary and Joseph. The story cannot unfold without us. God calls us into his story. There's no way out.

As we prepare for Christmas and to receive this child, we might ask what happens when God bursts into our nicely laid plans and decisions? To be open to this story means to accept to live, like Mary and Joseph, in "a condition of complete simplicity (costing not less than everything)" as the poet T. S. Eliot has put it (*Four Quartets*). A condition of complete simplicity that brings true freedom and the priceless gift of God's salvation.

It is not too late to get Christmas right this year! It all depends on God's gift of Emmanuel. So let us remember to look always for God's presence in our midst: in acts of kindness and generosity, in self-giving and forgiveness, in the sense of peace that can come in anxiety or grief – and let us also read or sing Mary's prayer, allowing our souls to magnify the Lord, so that we can grow in the fullness of God with us.

At the end of our service, as we turn towards Christmas, we will sing one of the most loved carols, "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Whether you sing it or just listen to it over the next days and weeks, make this your prayer:

"[...] Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born to us today. [...]
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel."

Amen.

The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, Curate

The Nicene Creed

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers

As we await for the birth of the Lord, we pray for the Church and for the world he came to save.

Gracious Father, strengthen your Church in the name of Jesus, to know the power of the Saviour, of God with us. Sustain and guide Robert and David our bishops, Peter our archdeacon, Jamie our chaplain, and the ministry team in Marseille, Aix and the Luberon in the service of Christ. Prepare us all to receive with joy and thanksgiving the coming of the Lord at his Nativity. May all Christian people join with Mary, his Mother, to proclaim God's greatness.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Come to the world, where the truth is so often unknown, and the message of hope not understood. We pray for King Charles, for the leaders of the nations we are part of, and for all heads of state, that they may be inspired by the servant

leadership we witness in your Son Jesus Christ. Teach all those who hold authority over others to govern without fear and suspicion and to seek the way of peace.

May all lands and nations that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for the future of our world as climate change continues to make itself felt in so many unsettling ways.

Strengthen and bless all those who strive to rebuild in places which have been ravaged by war or natural disaster. Help us all to work for love and wholeness in a broken and hurting world.

We pray for all who like Mary and Joseph are making at his time long and difficult journeys, especially for those trying to escape war, terror, hardship, famine or persecution. We pray for those embarking on perilous journeys across the Mediterranean or the English Channel in unsuitable craft and for those who are providing rescue services. Father, open new ways to meet their needs and bring them hope and courage.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are busily preparing for Christmas: that your Holy Spirit will help us to stay aware of the meaning of your Son's coming and to show Christ's love in all our interactions.

We pray for all who will be traveling this week: that their journeys may be safe and their visits with loved ones and friends be renewing and refreshing.

We pray for reconciliation within families, that in our Christmas celebrations, we may forgive past hurts and strive to renew relationships.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Father, grant us openness of heart, that, like Mary and Joseph, we may enter into the mystery of your loving actions and co-operate with your work even when we don't understand how to proceed.

Grant us freedom from judging others, that like Joseph, we may hold our judgments so that your work may unfold in the hearts and lives of those who are dear to us.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, comfort and heal those who, through loneliness, sickness or bereavement can feel little joy at this time.

From our community, we bring to you Malcom, Peter, Gabrielle, Margaret, Françoise, Eddie, Robert, Susan and Andrew and those who care for them.

In a moment of silence, we bring before you those whom we each hold on our hearts.

Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Give rest to the departed and an awakening to heavenly joy. As you were with them in this life, so let them now be with you for ever, no longer afflicted by the doubts and fears that they once knew.

We bring before you Michael Annett and Roger Thompson, who died recently. May they find their eternal joy in the company of the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. Look upon the distress of their families and friends and give them your comfort and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, who chose the Mary to be the mother of the promised Saviour: fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives.

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

The Peace

The minister says

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

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz-FkqobgXY>

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!

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 1.46-55
Tune: Woodlands – Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

Preparation of the Table

The celebrant says

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,

and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,**

que ta volonté soit faite,
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The celebrant says

Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.

Heavenly Father, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Music

Maria walks amid the thorn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxnkAb6f5dl>

*Words: Maria durch ein'n Dornwald ging, German carol,
translated by Henry S. Drinker (1880-1965)*

Music: Daniel Burton (b. 1944)

Maria walks amid the thorn,
Kyrie eleison.
Maria walks amid the thorn,
Which seven years no leaf has born.
Jesus and Maria.

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear?
Kyrie eleison.
A little child doth Mary bear,
Beneath her heart he nestles there.
Jesus and Maria.

And as the two are passing near,
Kyrie eleison,

Lo! Roses on the thorns appear,
Lo! Roses on the thorns appear.
Jesus and Maria.

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.

All **Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqt66rXDKJE>

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Tune: Forest Green – Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Blessing

The Chaplain says

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.**

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Offertory

Our chaplaincy receives no financial support from central Church of England funds but relies on the generosity of those who attend its services to continue its work. We are particularly grateful to those able to make regular donations by standing order, as this helps us to plan our work. But one-off donations are very welcome too.

The Diocese in Europe has a JustGiving page, making it possible for gifts to be made to individual chaplaincies in a simple way:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

Where you are asked if you would like to 'add a message', please include the words 'This is for the Marseille chaplaincy'. (Occasionally this box does not appear on the JustGiving page – if this happens, please let us know and we will ensure that your gift is allocated to the chaplaincy.)

Alternatively, gifts may be made by bank transfer, either in euros to the chaplaincy in France, or in sterling to the Diocese in Europe Fund in the UK. Please ask us for the bank details if you would like to do this.

Thank you for your support.

Picture: *The Annunciation*, fresco by Fra Angelico, 1438-45, Museum of San Marco, Florence