



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Advent 4

*The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...*

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children  
who long for your coming.  
Amen.**

*We sing:*

**Light the Advent candle four.  
Think of joy for evermore:  
Christ-child in a stable born,  
Gift of love that Christmas morn.**

***Candle, candle, burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night.  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

*Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together....*

**Dear God, this church is a family.  
Help us to learn together, to worship together,  
to share together and to pray together,  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Sabine Baring-Gould ©1986 Jubilate Hymns Ltd*

**1 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!

2 'For know, 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!

3 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!

4 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!

*We are gathered together as one body*

† 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.**

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.

Lord Jesus,

you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Amen.**

#### THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7.10–16; Romans 1.1–7

*After each reading...* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

#### GRADUAL HYMN *Ascribed to St Bernard of Cluny, 12th century*

**1 Daily, daily sing to Mary,  
Sing, my soul, her praises due:  
All her feasts, her actions honour  
With the heart's devotion true.  
Lost in wond'ring contemplation,  
Be her majesty confessed:**

**Call her Mother, call her Virgin,  
Happy Mother, Virgin blest.  
2 Sing, my tongue, the Virgin's trophies,  
who for us her Maker bore;  
for the curse of old inflicted,  
peace and blessings to restore.  
Sing in songs of praise unending,  
sing the world's majestic Queen;  
weary not nor faint in telling  
all the gifts she gives to men.**

**3 All my senses, heart, affections,  
strive to sound her glory forth;  
spread abroad the sweet memorials,  
of the Virgin's priceless worth,  
where the voice of music thrilling,  
where the tongues of eloquence,  
that can utter hymns beseeming  
all her matchless excellence?**

**4 All our joys do flow from Mary,  
all then join her praise to sing;  
trembling sing the Virgin Mother,  
Mother of our Lord and King,  
while we sing her awful glory,  
far above our fancy's reach,  
let our hearts be quick to offer  
love the heart alone can teach.**

#### **THE GOSPEL**

*We sing...Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 1.18–25

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

*We sing...* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

## THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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;  
he 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

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

## THE PEACE *Please stand*

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## OFFERTORY HYMN *Tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

**1 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.***

**2 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.***

**4 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.***

**5 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.***

**6 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.***

## THE EUCHARIST

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God forever.**

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so, we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

*We sing*     **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*We sing*     **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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.**

**And 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.**

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.**

*We sing*     **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.**

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN *Liturgy of St James, tr. G. Moultrie (1829-85)*

**1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.**

**2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood;  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.**

**3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.**

**4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!**

*Post communion prayers*

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. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless,  
in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *©1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith*

**1 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.**

**2 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 the same;  
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**3 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.**

**4 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!**

## Christmas at St Alban's

**Candlelit Carol Service** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

**Crib Service** Christmas Eve at 4pm

**Midnight Mass**

Christmas Eve at 9.30pm 'Bethlehem time'

**Christmas Day** Family Service at 9.45am



*Everyone is very warmly invited!*

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### Regular services and events at St Alban's

SUNDAY SERVICE:

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICE:

**Thursday 9:30am** Said Eucharist

*followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm*

**Saturday Prayer Breakfast 9.30am** next one Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January

**Tiny Toes Toddler Group** every Monday in term time, 9.30 – 11am

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*Mass of St Thomas © 2012 David Thorne Music*

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