

13th December 2020
Service of Holy
Communion

The Third Sunday
of Advent

Lytham St Cuthbert
 **VISION**2026
HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES
and Lytham St John
Joining in Worship

The Greeting

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

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever! Your
prophet John the Baptist was witness to the
truth as a burning and shining light. May we
your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led
to witness to him who is the Lord of our
coming Kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King
of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

Prayers of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make
straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen,
and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**Lord God, in our sin we have avoided your
call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy
on us; bind up our wounds and revive us; in
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the
secret thoughts of all:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the
Spirit is saying to the churches:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

2.

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

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming
sent your messenger to prepare your way
before you: grant that the ministers and
stewards of your mysteries may likewise so
prepare and make ready your way by turning
the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom
of the just, that at your second coming to
judge the world we may be found an
acceptable people in your sight; for you are
alive and reign with the Father in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me; he has
sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim
liberty to the captives, and release to the
prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's
favour, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn; to provide for
those who mourn in Zion – to give them a
garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness
instead of mourning, the mantle of praise
instead of a faint spirit. They will be called
oaks of righteousness, the planting of the
LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up
the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the
former devastations; they shall repair the
ruined cities, the devastations of many
generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and
wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their
recompense, and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them. Their descendants shall
be known among the nations, and their
offspring among the peoples; all who see
them shall acknowledge that they are a

3.
people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

John 1. 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

4.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us say together The Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The response is

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

And, at the end,

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

5.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty
of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.

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 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 saying:

**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.**

6.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all
holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy
Spirit, and according to your holy will, these
gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on
the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for
the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his
mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory, we
celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread
and this cup and we thank you for counting us
worthy to stand in your presence and serve
you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and
gather into one in your kingdom all who share
this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the
company of Cuthbert, John and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever, through
Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and
glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and
ever. **Amen.**

7.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.

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.

Breaking of the 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

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

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

When directed, please move forward in silence to receive the bread. The priest will receive the wine on behalf of us all.

Prayers after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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.

8.

The Blackburn Diocesan Vision Prayer for Vision 2026

Heavenly Father, we embrace your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see your vision, ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Blessing

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.

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