

*The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Parish of Welwyn,
Welwyn Team, Diocese of St Albans*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2019**

**8am Said Eucharist (separate booklet)
9.30am All Age Eucharist with Nativity
(Common Worship Order 1)**

Welcome! If you are new to this church please introduce yourself to one of the clergy and take a newcomers' leaflet. There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.

*Please join in the words in **Bold** in the order of service*

THE SERVICE BEGINS HERE:

*Please stand to sing **HYMN***

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone,
far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high;
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay,
To us reveal salvation's way.
Rejoice!...

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice!...

O come, O come, thou dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice!...

O come, Desire of nations! Show
thy kingly reign on earth below;
thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.
Rejoice!...

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

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

We light the third candle of the Advent wreath

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.
God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

The deacon introduces the confession:

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces God's forgiveness

We remain standing for the collect:

Let us pray:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit for the first bible reading

A reading from the letter of James (5:7-10)
read by Oscar Kilby

7 Be patient beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

*Please stand to sing the **HYMN:***

See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
the Prince of glory is his name.
*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of love again:
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies,
shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world.
O now carry me...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can
be the Saviour of the world.

O now carry me...

Mine are riches – from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me...

Please remain standing and face the gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
(11:2-11)

Glorify to you, O Lord.



²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit for the Nativity.

At the end we sing together:

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky, looked down where He lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Please sit or kneel for **the Intercessions**, using the response:*

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And at the end

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

Intentions for prayer: Shem Biran, Alice Burnapp, Sheila Edmondson, Edward Dunsterville, Rod Dowdell Catherine England, John Farrow, Roger Francis, Charlotte Grandville, Mary Gregory, Anne Gurney, Doreen Hakansson, Sue Keach, Audrey Taylor and Linda Thistlethwaite.

For the departed: Nora Burnett, Daphne Elwin, Madeleine Phillips

Please stand for The Peace, which the priest introduces with a sentence from Scripture

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

We share the peace with our neighbours

During the hymn a collection is taken, and the altar prepared.

You can also donate online at www.welwyn.org.uk or give by standing order. If you are a tax-payer, Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews; by completing the details you will enable us to increase the value of your donation by 25%.

*We sing **HYMN:***

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

The priest gives thanks over the bread and over the wine:

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing throughout the prayer, but sit if you need to

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.

Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Listen, and we will hear.
Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.
You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**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.**



We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Listen, and we will hear.
On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'
After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'
So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Listen, and we will hear.
Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

Please kneel or sit.

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.
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:

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

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.**



Please move for communion following the direction of the stewards. All are welcome to come to the rail. Communicant members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive the bread and the wine, all others are welcome to come for a blessing (please indicate this by crossing your arms and bowing your head).

During communion the choir sings the anthem 'Jesus springing'

I am the heart that houses the cone, the cone enclosing the cedar, I
am the cedar sawn for the cradle, forest of the body, body of the tree.
I am the cradle rocking the baby, I am the baby containing the man, I
am the man nailed on the cross, tree of the body, body of the forest. I
am the cross sawn from the cedar, I am the cedar enclosed in the
cone, I am the cone housed in the heart, here in my heart Jesus,
springing.

Music: B Chilcott, Words: Kevin Crossley-Holland

*and then we sing the **HYMN:***

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

After communion we kneel or sit to say the prayer:

**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**

*The priest gives the notices and then we stand to sing the **HYMN:***

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,
Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wand'ers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,
When Bethl'hem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,
Or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,
For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage,
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.

With love and compassion, **come, Lord Jesus.**
With judgement and mercy, **come, Lord Jesus.**
In power and glory, **come, Lord Jesus.**
In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**

The priest says the blessing ending:

...be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**
Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The ministers and people depart.

The organist plays a voluntary – 'Vom Himmel hoch' by Pachelbel.

*All are welcome to stay for refreshments in New Church House.
Please take this booklet with you*

NOTICES

**Monday and Tuesday 9am-1pm
Friday 9am-12pm.**

CLOSED ON Wednesday and Thursday.

Parish Office: secretary@welwyn.org.uk, 01438 840964

Clergy surgery (particularly for bookings of marriages and baptisms) is open on
Saturday 10-11am, when coffee is also served in Church House.

The Rector: The Rev'd Dr David Munchin, rector@welwyn.org.uk, 01438 714150

The Curate: The Rev'd Dominic Holroyd-Thomas, curate@welwyn.org.uk, 01438 813043
Further information: www.welwyn.org.uk; 'The Welwyn Magazine';
Facebook page: St Mary's Church, Welwyn Twitter: wsm_church

NOT MANY CHRISTMAS CARDS LEFT NOW - LAST CHANCE
Please could you try to deliver the last remaining Christmas Cards

Office Closure over Christmas 2019

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Friday 27th December

Tuesday 31st December – New Year's Eve

Calendar 2020 – Please take a copy of next year’s Calendar.

Christmas Collections – As it is our custom, collections on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day are donated to other charities. This year, it is The Samaritans. Whilst Christmas is a joyous time for most it can be one of profound sadness for others; divorce, depression and suicide reach peak levels at this time of year. The work of Samaritans therefore is even more vital. Please give as generously as you can and use the gift aid envelopes provided if you pay tax.

The Christmas Card Board - You may pin up one card to greet all your friends at St Mary’s. The board is now at the link to Church House.

Thank you – Susan Wray would like to thank everyone who supported her coffee morning. **£805** was raised which this year will be split between Cancer Research & the Teenager Cancer Trust. Thank you to all the supporters and helpers.

Thank you - Not a lot of humbug, but a great deal of joy! This year’s ministry team pantomime ‘Humbug and Joy’ based on the classic by Charles Dickens ‘A Christmas Carol’, has raised **£2001.97** for Stevenage Haven, which works to support single homeless people. Thanks go to the hard-working cast and crew, and to all who supported this worthwhile venture by coming to see the show. Usha Hull.

Carols and poems anyone? We need a small group of carol singers to come and sing at care home services in December and, if you like, short Christmas poem or reading, The services will be short (half an hour)

The dates & venues are below – all at 11am:

16th December (Mon) Heath Lodge & Autumn Vale,

18th December (Wed) Three Oaks

20th December (Fri) Monread Lodge

This is a small but valuable ministry to others in this season of goodwill and your kindness and your help is hugely appreciated. Please contact Usha on usha.hull@me.com if you would like to help.

Thank you – from Graham & Cathy England for your prayers and support since her accident which is greatly appreciated.

Dante for Dummies! Susannah is running a study day at St. Mary's Welwyn on **Saturday 15th February**. £10. The day is for anyone who would like to know a little about the poet Dante and his major work The Divine Comedy. There is no expectation that people will come with prior knowledge of Dante or poetry, but we will explore together this fascinating man and work. Do pick up a flyer for more details.

Choir Practice & Welwyn Tune - cancelled on Friday 27th December

Choir – normal practice – 3 January but **NO WELWYN TUNE until 10 January**

WELWYN CHRISTMAS SERVICES

18th December 9pm - Compline

22nd December 6.30pm - Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve

3.30pm - Crib Service*

11.00pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day – 8am & 9.30am*

Said Eucharist & All Age Eucharist

**Asterix denotes Services
especially suitable for Children**

This Week in the Welwyn Team

Today	4.00pm 6.30pm	WOOLMER GREEN CAROL SERVICE TEWIN CAROL SERVICE
Monday	9.30am 10.30am 3.30pm	Sewing Group – last session until 6th January Walking Group Craftea – last session until 6th January
Tuesday	9.30am 5.00pm 6.30pm	Community Café – last session until 7th Jan. Set up for St. Mary's Charity Concert in CH St. Mary's School Charity Concert
Wednesday	8.00am <i>9.00am</i> 9.30am 3.15pm 9.00pm	Breakfast Bible Study <i>Morning Prayer at St Mary's followed by</i> Holy Communion at St Mary's Play & Praise Service – NB different time COMPLINE
Thursday	9.30am 10.00am 6.00pm 8.00pm	St. Mary's Christmas Service Knitting Group – use rear entrance St. Mary's Year 7 Carol Service Arpeggios & Bridge Club
Friday	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Time for God Monread Care Home Service Welwyn Tune / 7.45pm Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	9.00am 10.00am 10-11am 10-11.30	Plant Sale Councillor Surgery Clergy Surgery in the Office Coffee/Traidcraft Stall in Church House
Sunday 22nd December	8.00am 9.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist Parish Eucharist CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Next week's Readings – 22nd December

Isaiah 35: 1-10
James 5: 7-10
Matthew: 11: 2-11

