

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

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020**

**8am Said Eucharist  
9.30am Parish Eucharist  
(Common Worship Order 1)**

**Welcome back to church – it's great you are here. We think of those still shielding and just to note that we will be livestreaming the service this morning.**

**The camera is at the front of the nave, please don't sit in front of it!**

**Please remember to maintain social distance with those outside your household, and sanitise your hands on entry. The wearing of face masks is now mandatory in places of worship unless you are exempt.**

**There will be some other differences in the service, which you will see by following this sheet.**

***If you are new to this church please introduce yourself to one of the clergy. There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.***

**THE SERVICE BEGINS HERE:**

*Unfortunately the big difference is that we have to ask you not to sing! However by the wonders of modern technology we have recorded (in a safe socially distanced manner) our organist and choir singing two hymns this morning, to start and end the service. Please do not stand, but you can follow and hum (but please don't sing along!) the first hymns is:*

*(words for those at home to sing, and for reflection and humming for those in church - **sung by the choir**)*

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest Thy virgin birth:  
Let every age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, Thou art still  
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
The promised Fruit to man displayed.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness glow with new born light,  
No more shall night extinguish day,  
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, virgin born to thee,  
Eternal praise and glory be;  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*Please stand*

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 final candle of the Advent wreath*

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.**

*The minister introduces the confession:*

**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.**

*We say:*

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

*The priest pronounces God's forgiveness*

*We remain standing for the collect:*

Let us pray:

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**

*We sit to listen to this Sunday's bible readings.*



A reading from the Second Book of Samuel (7:1-11, 16)  
(read by Vernonne Allan)

<sup>1</sup>Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

<sup>8</sup>Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans (16:25-27),  
(read by Vernonne Allan)

<sup>25</sup>To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand as we greet the gospel with a fanfare.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26-38)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit for the Sermon:* Colin Hull, Reader

*Please stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:*

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel for the intercessions*

**Sick:** Juliette Thompson, Ruby Wiseman, Ann Gurney, Rod Dowdell, John Lavelle, Nathan Edwards, Vickie Harris, John Burnapp, Dennis Dinsdale, Alice Burnapp, Joan Gould, John Allday, Beth Bates, Paulin Lebeau, Mavis Kingham, Joan Webb, Carol Roper, Ruth Shirley

**Departed:** Irene Tanner, Diane Winwood, Jon Green, Ian Carruthers Rhoda Raey

*We use the following 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.**

*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.**

*Do feel free to say 'Peace be with you' to your neighbours, but please  
refrain from sharing it physically.*

*We will NOT be passing around a collection – however there will be a  
plate left at the end of the service, and it is possible to give on line or  
by standing order. PLEASE think about doing this, as like everybody we  
are facing financial uncertainty without our usual sources of income.*

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

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,  
the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things  
come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

### **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.**

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:

***The choir sings:***

**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 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  
**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 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.**

*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.**

*The Choir sings:*

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.  
Amen.**



*Please come forward to receive communion at the Nave Altar. Communion will be given in one kind only (the bread), and received standing. Please form a socially distanced queue, returning to your place via the side aisles. If you have your own hand sanitizer this would be good time to use it (please do not borrow from neighbour). Baptised Christians are welcome to receive the bread, all others are welcome to come for a blessing (please indicate this by crossing your arms and bowing your head). If you don't wish to appear on camera as you come back from communion, please turn right instead of left, whichever side you are on.*

*Music during communion:* **Anthem: sung by the choir**

Adam lay y bounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkës finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Ne had never Our Lady a been Heavene Queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.  
Therefore we mun singen Deo gratias!

Words: 15<sup>th</sup> cent, Music: Boris Ord

## **Hymn, sung by the choir:**

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 favour'd lady, Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favour'd 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 favour'd 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 favour'd lady Gloria!

## **Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those at home**

**My Jesus, I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You  
were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never  
permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

*We pray together:*

**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.**

*We sit as the notices and banns of marriage are announced.*

*We sit and listen (and hum along, or sing along at home) to the **hymn sung by the virtual choir:***

1 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?*

2 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

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

4 Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

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:*

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. **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  
'Pastorale' from the Christmas Concerto by A Corelli***

***Please take this booklet with you***  
*(this is more directive than usual we don't want booklets hanging  
around that others will have to clear up).*

**You are welcome to coffee after the service**

Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit. Please sit in places set out – please observe social distancing. If possible leave chairs where they are, but if you move them return to places when you leave. Thank you.

**The Church Office hours are:**

**Mon, Tues – 9-1pm & Fridays – 9-12noon**

Clergy surgery (particularly for bookings of marriages and baptisms  
) is open on Saturday 10-11am.

The Rector: The Rev'd Dr David Munchin,

[rector@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:rector@welwyn.org.uk), 01438 714150

Parish Office: [secretary@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:secretary@welwyn.org.uk), 01438 840964

Further information: [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk); 'The Welwyn Magazine';

Facebook page: St Marys Church Welwyn

## NOTICES

**Ink2Cash** is now closing this project. It has raised a small amount of money for St Mary's but cannot be sustained any longer sadly. Stephen Jupp.

**Men's Breakfast link** – Philip Molloy: "Satellites for Seafarers" - due to the success of this on-line session on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, there is now a recording available on YouTube. Link

is: <https://youtu.be/PHRDUR7sLFg>

For those who were not there this is a good opportunity to view the talk. We hope to continue the Online programme of Breakfast events until such time as we can meet again in person at New Church House. The next virtual session will be held early in the new year and will be announced soon. Jim Read

**Christmas services** - Please see website, posters and weekly bulletins for Christmas Services. **Please note for some Christmas services you need to register for free tickets, some are already sold out, but there is a waiting list. Many services will also be livestreamed.**

Please find a copy of the 2021 church Calendar on line at [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk), or take away a hard copy.

**This Week in the Welwyn Team – italics = on line (see website)**

<b>Today</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Service No 1 – tickets required</b>
<b>Monday</b>	5.00pm <b>6.30pm</b> 9.00pm	Evening Prayer at Tewin <b>Carol Service No 2 – tickets required</b> <i>Compline</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.10 <b>6pm</b>	Morning Prayer at Codicote <b>Big Carol Sing in Welwyn Churchyard</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 9.30 10.30	Morning Prayer Holy Communion <i>Bible Study by Zoom</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve - 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
	<b>2pm &amp; 4pm</b> <i>9pm</i> <b>11pm</b>	<b>Crib Services – livestreamed &amp; tickets</b> <i>Compline</i> <b>Midnight Mass – livestreamed &amp; tickets</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	<b>8am</b> <b>9.30am</b> 10.00am	<b>Said Eucharist</b> <b>Christmas Day Service – tickets required</b> Livestreamed from St. Peter's, Tewin
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>No clergy surgery or coffee</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8am 9.30am	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b> Holy Communion Parish Communion

**Readings for 27<sup>th</sup> December:**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3,  
Galatians 4:4-7,  
Luke 2:15-21

