

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2023  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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Welcome to Holy Innocents.

*This leaflet contains all you need to join in the service. Words in **bold print** are spoken or sung by all. Hymns are not announced. For visitors, Gift Aid envelopes are available. It is our tradition be as still and quiet as possible before the service as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist. When the bell rings, please stand to join in:*

## **ENTRANCE HYMN 186 “Magnificat”**

*The president today is the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth. Please remain standing for the greeting and act of penitence.*

+ 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.**

*The prayer to mark the lighting of the Advent  
Candles is led by the choir.*

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.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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.

*A time of silent prayer follows, then:*

Heavenly Father,

you exalted the humble and meek:

**give us contrite hearts;**

be planted in our lives

**that we might be filled**

**with your heavenly gifts**

**and grow in love for each other**

**and for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

*The Kyries are sung by the choir and then the  
president says the absolution.*

May Almighty God, who forgives all who  
truly repent, have mercy on 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 prayer for this Sunday

Let us pray.

*After a moment of silent prayer the president says  
the Collect.*

*At the end: **Amen.***

*Please sit down for the Ministry of the Word.*

## **FIRST READING** 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*In place of the Magnificat or psalm, please remain  
seated to join in:*

The world's fair rose has blossomed  
of Jesse's royal stem;

Foretold by ancient prophets,  
who did the news proclaim;

**This blossom greets the light within our  
cold midwinter, upon our dark midnight.**

This rose, I mean, whose coming  
Isaiah first did sing,  
Is Mary pure and blessed,  
whose blossom is our king;  
**By God's eternal will, this maid who bore  
her baby is maid and mother still.**

We pray you, Mary, mother,  
the world's fair Rose of grace,  
That by your Christ child's passion,  
we too may see his face;  
**So may he help us all to offer as his  
treasure, our hearts, his dwelling-place.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 16.25-27

Now 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 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 -- to the only  
wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom  
be the glory forever! Amen.

*At the end:* This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

Alleluia!

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

*Repeated by all.*

Prepare a way for the Lord, make God's  
pathway straight, and all the earth shall see  
the saving love of God.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 1.26-38

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit down. The preacher today is the Revd Jane Walker. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. Then please stand with the president for the Profession of Faith:*

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 remain standing for the Prayer of the Faithful. After each section:*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*After the final section (for the departed) there will be a time of silent prayer. At the end:*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your  
Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The president introduces THE PEACE:*

God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts;  
the peace of the Lord be always with you:

**And also with you.**

All exchange a sign of peace.

**OFFERTORY HYMN 33 vv1,2,5,6,7**

*The bread and wine are brought to the altar. The president says a prayer over the gifts to which we all respond:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER follows.*

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.**

*THE PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking God for his saving works, and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven:*

.....for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

*THE PRESIDENT asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and cup. ....Great is the mystery of faith.*

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself. At the end of the prayer the president says:*

.....all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever: **Amen.**

*The President introduces the Lord's Prayer and all say together:*

**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.**

ی پدر ما که در آسمانی، نام تو مقدس باد، ملکوت تو  
بیاید. اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است، بر زمین نیز کرده  
شود. نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده. و قرض های ما  
را ببخش چنانکه ما نیز قرضداران خود را می بخشیم، و  
ما را در آزمایش میاور، بلکه از شریر ما را رهایی ده.  
زیرا ملکوت و قوت و جلالنا ابدالابد از آن تو است،  
آمین.

*We sit or kneel as the president breaks the consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:*

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.**

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 president addresses those who wish to come to Holy Communion:*

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.

*Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those who are baptized, whether or not yet confirmed, as well as communicant members of other Christian churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing. When all have received Holy Communion what remains of the consecrated bread will be placed in the tabernacle. After a time of stillness and quiet, all please STAND with the President.*

Let us pray.

*After a moment of silent prayer.*

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.**

*Please join in:*

**Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.**

**Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,**

**'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Hark....***

**Come, desire of nations come,  
fix in us thy humble home;  
Rise the woman's conquering seed,  
bruise in us the serpent's head;  
Now display thy saving power,  
ruined nature now restore,  
Now in mystic union join thine to ours,  
and ours to thine: *Hark....***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth. *Hark...***

*Please sit for the announcements and then stand  
for the blessing and dismissal.*

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.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE**

**2330 The First Eucharist of Christmas**

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY**

**1000 Sung Eucharist for the Nativity**

**THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

**1100 Sung Festival Eucharist**

**NEXT SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> Christmas 1**

**1000 Sung Eucharist**

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**ADVENT  
CHARITY**



**Donations may be placed in the dish  
provided or made online at**

<https://msf.org.uk/secure/donate/surgery>

A tender shoot hath started  
up from a root of grace,  
As ancient seeds imparted from Jesse's holy race,  
It blooms without a blight,  
Blooms in the cold bleak winter  
Turning darkness into light.  
This shoot Isaiah taught us  
From Jesse's root should spring,  
The Virgin Mary brought us  
The branch of which we sing,  
Our God of endless might,  
Gave her this child to save us  
Thus turning darkness into light.