

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



*O WISDOM, spoken by the most high God,  
you fill the universe from end to end,  
holding all things together  
with gentleness and strength:  
Come and teach us  
the way of understanding.*

*Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 2023  
The Third Sunday of Advent*

آمدی خوش

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 for donations. It is our tradition be as still and quiet as possible before the service as we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist. When the bell rings, please stand to sing:*

**Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,  
Stirs on the earth and trembles in the air;  
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?  
Is it the music of His people's prayer?**

**Surely He cometh, and a thousand voices  
Shout to the saints, and call each listening ear;  
Surely He cometh, and the earth rejoices,  
Glad in His promise - for his time is near.**

**This hath He done, and shall we not adore him?  
This shall He do, and can we still despair?  
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,  
Cast at His feet the burden of our care.**

**Yet, through life, death,  
through sorrow and through sinning  
He shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed:  
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.**

*The president today is the Revd Richard Young.  
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 third Advent  
Candle is led by the choir.*

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.**

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.

*A time of silent prayer follows, then:*

Heavenly Father,  
you have created a universe of light:  
**forgive us when we return to darkness.**  
you are the light of the world:  
**cleanse and heal us from our sins,**  
give us light in our hearts  
**and renew us in faith and love. Amen.**

*The Kyries are sung by the choir*

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

*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** Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 126** "Wayfaring Stranger"

When God first brought us  
back from exile,  
we were as dazed  
as those who dream.  
Then were our hearts  
so full of laughter;  
joy from our lips flowed like a stream.  
The godless cried in envious wonder,  
"Look what the Lord  
has done for them!"  
Indeed our God has greatly blessed us;  
rejoice and sing, Jerusalem!

Once more, O Lord,  
restore your people;  
come with your saving help again,  
as to the brook beds in the desert  
you bring the sweet, reviving rain.  
Let those who sow  
with tears and sighing  
sing as they reap and joy proclaim:  
may those who weep  
when seed is scattered  
gather their sheaves  
and praise your name.

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything;

hold fast to what is good;

abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful,

and he will do this.

*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.

**Alleluia!**

**Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

**Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.**

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make God's pathway straight,

and all the earth shall see

the saving love of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

**Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.**

**GOSPEL READING** John 1.6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit down for the sermon. The preacher today is the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth. After the sermon there will be a time of silence.*

*Then please stand with the president for the Profession of Faith:*

We believe in God the Father,  
**from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son,  
**who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
**who strengthens us with power from on high.**  
We believe in one God;  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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 55

*The offerings of the people are collected and 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  
بباید. 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, 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. During communion, the choir sings "Rejoice in the Lord" (Tambling). When all have received Holy Communion what remains of the consecrated bread will be placed in the tabernacle. At the end of a time of stillness and quiet, all please STAND with the President.*

Let us pray.

*After a moment of silent 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.**

**HYMN 11**

*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.**

\*\*\*\*\*

MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> *O Adonai*

**1930 Eucharist**

THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> *O Oriens*

**1930 Eucharist**

SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> *O Emmanuel*

**1000 Foodbank**

NEXT SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> Advent 4

**1000 Sung Eucharist**

**2330 The First Eucharist of Christmas**

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**ADVENT  
CHARITY**



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

- wisdom
- Lord of all
- Root of Jesse
- holder of David's Key
- Dayspring
- Ruler of the Nations
- Emmanuel

