



St. Mark's Anglican Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Sung Eucharist at 10:30 am

Welcome to St. Mark's.

*The order of service is set forth in this service sheet.
Please stand and kneel as you are able—and as is your custom.*

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Besançon"*

Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN 91

People, Look East! The Time is Near

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,
***All* to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan (1880-1968) *Missa da Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

8
Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

15
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

THE COLLECT

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All sit

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: James Mainprize

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a

swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Thanks be to God.

HYMN 362 (*remain seated*)

Tell Out, My Soul

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Reader: James Mainprize

Be patient, therefore, 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader Thanks be to God.

All stand

HYMN 101

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly 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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rector

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All **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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Penny-Lynn Cookson

Leader In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying,
“Lord Jesus, come soon!”

People O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends
of the earth: come and teach us how to live.
Lord Jesus, come soon!

Leader O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the
burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and
ransom us.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence
before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay
no more.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you
shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness:
come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make
opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us,
Lord our God.
People **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants,
who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious
majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.
People **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

HYMN 102

Prepare the Way, O Zion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
 we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
 and opened to us the way of salvation.
 Now we watch for the day when he will come again
 in power and great triumph to judge this world,
 that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.
 Therefore we praise you,
 Joining our voices with angels and archangels
 and with all the company of heaven,
 who for ever sing this hymn
 to proclaim the glory of your name.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD

Healey Willan *Missa da Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord God of hosts, hea-ven and

9 earth are full of thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord most

15 high. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he that com-eth

22 in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All remain standing or kneel

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant God of promise,
 you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
People **Happy are those who are called**
 to the supper of the Lamb.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

Healey Willan *Missa da Sancta Maria Magdalena*

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a - way the

6 1. repeat two times 3.
sins of the world, have mer-cy u - pon us. Grant

14
us thy peace.

*Please follow the directions of the greeters as you make your way to the altar
Kneeling and standing are both appropriate postures to receive the Eucharist*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden Written in their book.

Nè had one apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady A been heaven's queen.

Blessèd be the time That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

- 15th century English carol

After communion, all stand for

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.
All **And your faithful servants bless you.
Gracious God
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body,
live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup,
bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights,
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
So that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

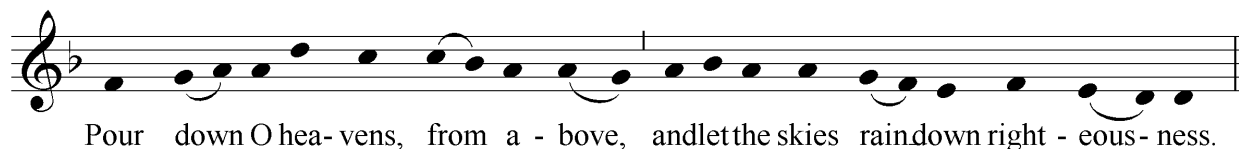
People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE ADVENT PROSE

The people sing this refrain where indicated



Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem and desolation; our holy and beautiful house where our fathers praised you.

Refrain

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities.

Refrain

You are my witnesses, say the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

Refrain

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

Refrain

VOLUNTARY *Postlude on "Prepare the Royal Highway"*

Wayne Wold

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The flowers at the back of the nave are given to the Glory of God and
in memory of Helmut Hammerling by his wife Maggie



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The Rev'd Leighton Lee, *Rector*
The Rev'd Dr Susan MacLaren, *Honorary Assistant*

Michael Bloss, *Director of Music*
Erin McKinley, *Parish Administrator*

Andrea Douglas Ian Russell
Rector's Warden People's Warden

Kathy Taylor
Deputy Warden

Allan Magnacca, O. N.
Warden Emeritus