



The Parish of Foxcote with Shoscombe

HOLY COMMUNION

10am - Sunday 11th December 2011 - 3rd of Advent

‘Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.’

Zephaniah 2:3

Welcome/Notices

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

Carol

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship Christ the new-born King.

Come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light: Chorus

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: Chorus

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: Chorus

5 Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down: Chorus

Prayers of Penitence - *Let us sit or kneel to pray*

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.**

Gloria - *We say the Gloria together*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading – Zephaniah 2:1-3

[1] Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation,[2] before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you.[3] Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
- 3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
- 4 'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,

radiance of Christ shine in our hearts. As the wind blows where it will, so may the breath of the spirit move freely in our lives. Living God, work in us and with us and through us to your glory. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn

1 From heaven you came,
Helpless babe,
Entered our world,
Your glory veiled;
Not to be served
But to serve,
And give Your life
That we might live.
*This is our God,
The Servant King,
He calls us now
To follow Him,
To bring our lives
As a daily offering
Of worship to
The Servant King.*

2 There in the garden
Of tears,
My heavy load
He chose to bear;

His heart with sorrow
Was torn,
'Yet not My will
But Yours,' He said. *Refrain*

3 Come see His hands
And His feet,
The scars that speak
Of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars
Into space
To cruel nails
Surrendered. *Refrain*

4 So let us learn
How to serve,
And in our lives
Enthroned Him;
Each other's needs
To prefer,
For it is Christ
We're serving. *Refrain*

You are most welcome to stay for coffee after the end of service

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praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray using the words our Saviour taught us.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.**

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

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

The President and people receive communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

We stand for the Blessing and Dismissal

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain you always. **Amen.**

As the dew falls in the morning, so may the grace of God descend upon us. As the sun bathes all its life-giving light, so may the

all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 23 starting at the 1st verse **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 23:1-13 & 37-39

[1] Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: [2] “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. [3] So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. [4] They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. [5] “Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; [6] they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; [7] they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them ‘Rabbi.’ [8] “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. [9] And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. [10] Nor are you to be called ‘teacher,’ for you have one Teacher, the Christ. [11] The greatest among you will be your servant. [12] For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. [13] “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

[37] “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. [38] Look, your house is left to you desolate. [39] For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk – ‘Repent whilst there is still time’ - *Richard Fothergill*

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

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

We sit or kneel to pray

Prayers of Intercession

Sovereign God, we praise you today for the great wonder at the heart of the gospel - your sharing our humanity and enduring our weakness. You are sovereign over all, yet you became our servant. You are the holy one of God, yet you were tempted just as we are. You are the giver of life, yet you endured the darkness of death. You are the Lord of lords, yet you were crowned with thorns. You are enthroned on high, yet you consented to be brought low. In what the world counted weakness you displayed true strength. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

We praise you for your love that is able to turn human expectations upside down, and we rejoice in everything this means for us today that when we are weak, you are strong, when we feel most helpless, you are most powerful, when we can do little, you can do much. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

We praise you that your way is not one of coercion but of love, your power transforming from within, never forcing anyone to comply with your wishes but graciously inviting a response. We thank you that, year after year, generation after generation, you have worked through ordinary ~awed individuals like us, to make known your love and to bring nearer your kingdom. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

Sovereign God, Servant God, we praise you that, despite everything which conspires against you, everything which frustrates your purpose, your will shall finally triumph, nothing able to overcome your goodness, or to extinguish your love in Christ. May we live each day in that conviction, bringing honour and glory to you. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

Loving God, you have shown us such love and humility; we offer you our thanks and praise. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**

Let us offer a sign of peace to those around us.

Carol

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|---|--|
| 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.
<i>Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!</i>
<i>Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!</i>
<i>When he comes,</i>
<i>When he comes,</i>
<i>Who will make him welcome?</i> | 3 Mary hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected,
<i>Chorus</i> |
| 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.
<i>Chorus</i> | 4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
<i>Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!</i>
<i>Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!</i>
<i>Jesus comes!</i>
<i>Jesus comes!</i>
<i>We will make him welcome!</i> |

Eucharistic Prayer H

We sit or kneel for the Eucharistic prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us. **He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of