

**Morning Worship Sunday 12th December 2021
St Michael's Church Cumnor**



Welcome Revd Jean Pryce-Williams

Come, Spirit of the Living God and make yourself our welcome guest.

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

And also with you

Advent 3 - Prayer

When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families in homeless shelters, people in prison, people who have become invisible and forgotten...

When I look around, I see shadows of grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one, because they're recently divorced, because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone... *(The third candle in the Advent wreath is lit)*

In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy...

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all, that God's joy is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

Hymn 401. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world comes to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**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.**

The God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

Reading Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

A short time of reflection

Hymn 207. Heav'n shall not wait

Affirmation 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.**

The Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever.
Amen.**

Closing prayer and Blessing

May you be embraced by the joy of Christmas
and may the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes
every day of your lives.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be among you and all those you love and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 329. Make way

**We go into the world to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.
Amen.**