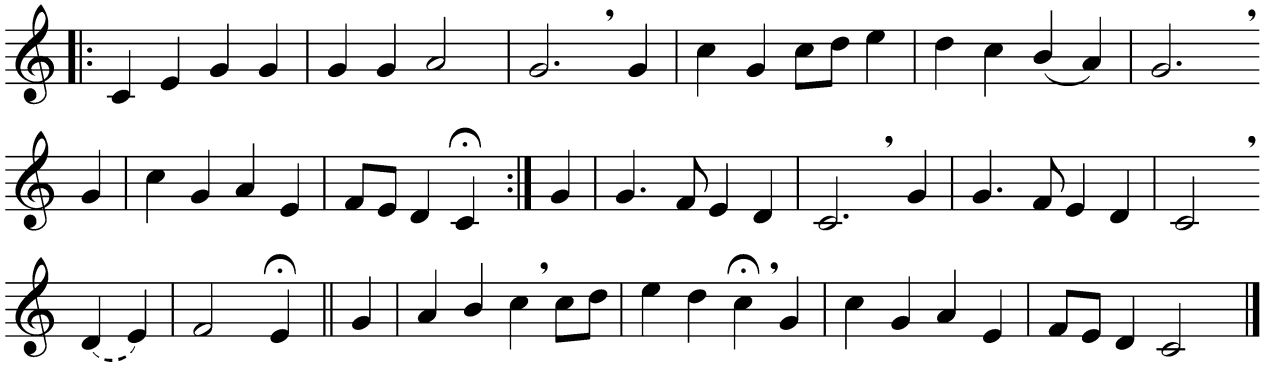
First Sunday of Advent, 29th November 2026
St Peter Mancroft Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist

Welcome to this service, which is also being live-streamed on the St Peter Mancroft YouTube channel. A hearing loop is available for use. Please join us for refreshments in the Octagon Room after the service.

Organ introit – played by Beatrix Goode, Junior Organ Scholar
Rorate Caeli by Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

Short notices are given and Banns of Marriage are read just before 10.00am.

Processional Hymn
Please stand if you're comfortable doing so.



Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,
'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!'
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and strong:
go forth and join the festal throng.

Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven descending,
adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!
Let us prepare to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.

Every soul in thee rejoices;
from earth and from angelic voices
be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
thy presence never more shall leave us,
we stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
the bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme
Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) *translated by* Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864–1935)
A&M 54

Welcome and Introduction
Please remain standing.

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.

A member of the congregation lights the first candle of the Advent Ring. These words are used as the candle is lit:

As stars to the maker
We are the work of God's hands.

As plants to the gardener
We are the work of God's hands.

As clay to the potter
We are the work of God's hands.

Be brave, be honest
Be awake to integrity.

Be strong, be gentle
Be awake to justice.

Be joyful, be humble
Be awake to holiness.

Be steady, be holy
Be awake to love.

The Confession
The deacon invites the people to confess their sins:

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.

Please sit or kneel.

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 Kyrie Eleison (Eucharistic Setting: Communion Service in C - Ireland)
The choir sings the Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

The presiding minister then proclaims God's 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.**

The Collect
Please remain sitting or kneeling.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First reading: Isaiah 64.1-9, read by Leila Threadkell
Please sit.

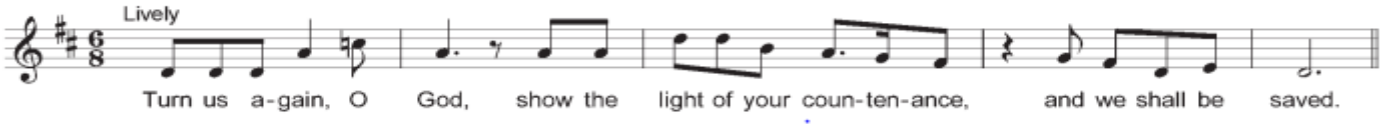
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20

Please remain seated. The choir sings the refrain through once and then the congregation joins in singing the refrain each time it is repeated.



Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbours
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Gospel Reading – Mark 13.24-37

Please stand if you're comfortable doing so for the gospel reading, and turn to face the centre of the Nave, from where the gospel will be read.

Choir Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near. Alleluia. Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near.

All **Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near. Alleluia. Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near.**

Choir Sound the trumpet, the Lord is near; wait, the Lord is near;
see, he comes to save us all. Wait, the Lord is near.

All **Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near. Alleluia. Alleluia. Wait, the Lord is near.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

'In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not

know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

Sermon, given by Fiona Haworth
Please be seated.

Nicene Creed
Please stand if you're comfortable doing so.

**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.

Intercessions, led by Helena Carr
Please sit or kneel.

This response may be used as part of the intercessions:
Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

At the end of the intercessions these words may be used:
Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

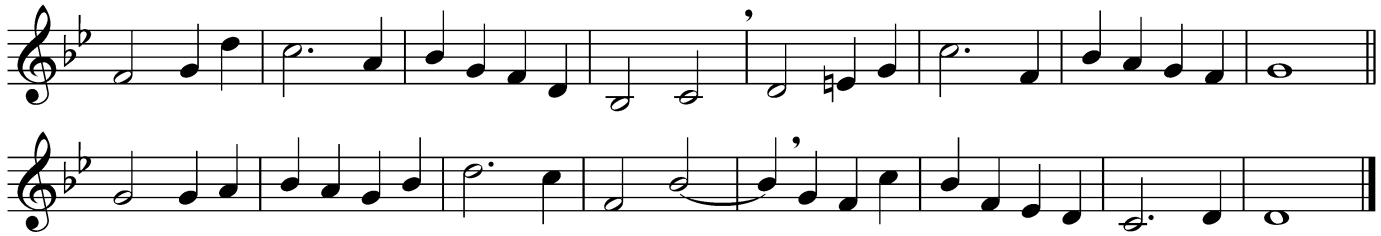
The Peace
Please stand if you are comfortable doing so, as the deacon introduces the Peace:

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Hymn

Please remain standing if you're comfortable doing so.



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 to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!

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.

Through life and 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.

Frederic William Henry Myers (1843–1901)
A&M 37

The Preparation of the Altar Table

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing for the first part of the prayer if you're comfortable doing so.

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit or kneel as the Eucharistic Prayer continues.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We invite you to say the Lord's Prayer in the language in which you're most comfortable.
The presiding minister introduces the Lord's Prayer, saying:
As our Saviour taught us, so together we pray:

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 for ever. Amen.

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.

The Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us Thy peace.

The president invites the people to receive communion, saying:

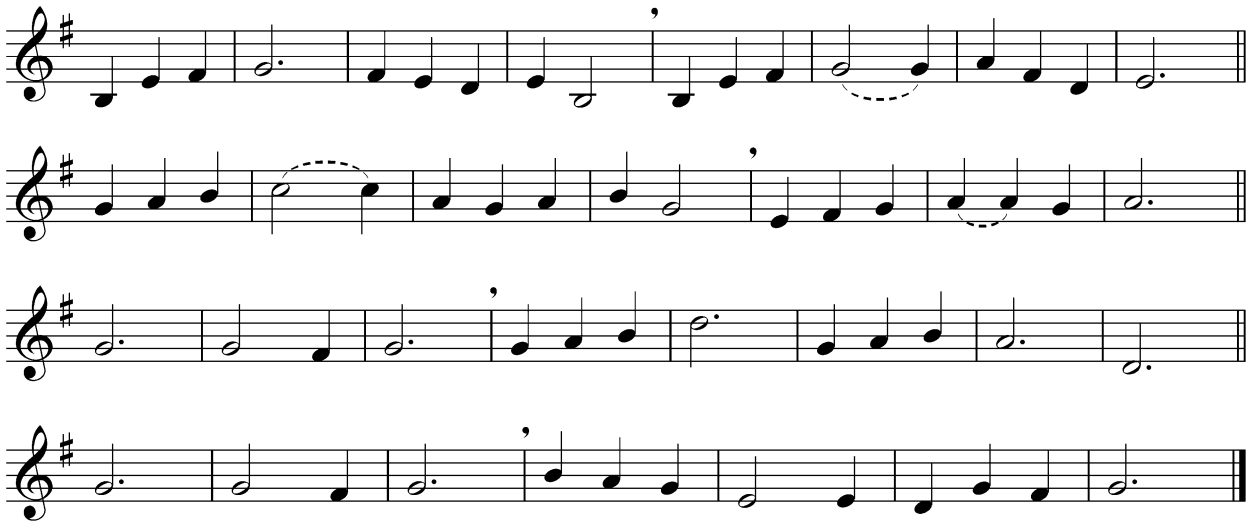
Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Please follow the guidance of the Sidespeople as you come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing. Those sitting in the side aisles are invited forward first, and then those in the central nave starting from the back. Please approach down the central aisle and return to your place using one of the side aisles. Communion is given at the chancel step in the form of a bread wafer (please ask if you require gluten-free) and wine from the shared chalice. Following national guidance issued for health reasons, please note it is not permitted to dip your wafer in the shared chalice. If you do not wish to drink from the shared chalice simply return to your place after receiving the wafer.

Communion anthem: I Look from Afar - Piccolo

Communion Hymn

Please remain seated for the singing of this hymn.



Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!…

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!…

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!…

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Bernadette Farrell (*b.* 1957)
A&M 42

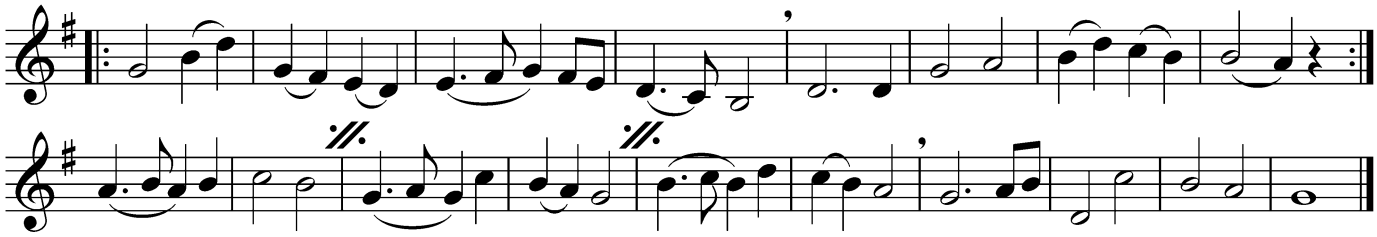
Post Communion Prayers
Please remain seated or kneeling.

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Final Hymn

Please stand if you're comfortable doing so, turning to face the West end as the choir, servers and ministers process out.



Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and John Cennick (1718–1755)
A&M 41

Final Blessing
The presiding minister uses these words:

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.**

Dismissal
The deacon dismisses the people using these words:

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

Organ Voluntary – played by Julian Haggett, Organist
Chorale Prelude on Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 by Johann S Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain standing while the crucifer and choir return down the South Aisle to the Vestry. You're then invited to sit for the organ voluntary, or feel free to depart.

A collection is not being taken during the service at present, but if you wish to make a contribution to the work of St Peter Mancroft please use the box or plate by the door, or the contactless donation point at the back of church, to give by card.

Following the service coffee is being served in the Octagon Room. Access is via the entrance on Hay Hill, for which please exit the church by the South door and head down the hill.

Today at 5.00pm is the candle-lit Advent Carol Service, to which all are very welcome.

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