



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge

---

## 2025 - 'Following Jesus in Loving Reconciliation'

### *The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 21st December 2025*

Please join us for our service live on YouTube at 10:00am.

Visit: [www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaullongridge/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaullongridge/streams)

---

### Welcome and Introduction

*Please follow the order of service  
from the purple booklet*

### First Hymn

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;**  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm  
has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His Holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to  
flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926  
Based on Luke 1.46-55  
(Magnificat, The Song of Mary)*

---

### THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*The fourth candle on the Advent  
Wreath is lit as we remember Mary  
the Mother of Jesus.*

**Blessed are you sovereign Lord,  
merciful and gentle: to you be glory  
and praise for ever! Your light has  
shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed  
Mary.**

**Grant that we, who have seen your  
glory, may daily be renewed in your  
image and prepared like her for the  
coming of your Son, who is Lord and  
Saviour of all.**

**Blessed be God for ever.**

---

### Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the  
Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother  
of your Son: grant that, as she looked  
for his coming as our saviour, so we  
may be ready to greet him when he  
comes again as our judge; who is alive  
and reigns with you, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for  
ever. **Amen.**

# First Reading

## Isaiah 7 : 10-16

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> 'Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.'

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

<sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

---

## Gradual Hymn

**The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,**  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers  
foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his  
holy name':  
most highly favoured lady.  
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the  
world will ever say  
'Most highly favoured lady.'  
Gloria!

Basque Carol—paraphrased by  
Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

---

# Gospel Reading

## Matthew 1 : 18– 25

Alleluia, alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his  
paths straight, and all flesh shall see  
the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the  
Messiah came about: his mother Mary  
was pledged to be married to Joseph,  
but before they came together, she  
was found to be pregnant through the  
Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her  
husband was faithful to the law, and  
yet did not want to expose her to  
public disgrace, he had in mind to  
divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

---

## **Hymn during preparation of the Table**

**For Mary, mother of our Lord,**  
God's holy name be praised,  
Who first the Son of God adored,  
As on her child she gazed.

Brave, holy Virgin, she believed,  
Though hard the task assigned,  
And by the Holy Ghost conceived  
The Saviour of mankind.

The busy world had got no space  
Or time for God on earth;  
A cattle manger was the place  
Where Mary gave him birth.

She gave her body as God's shrine,  
Her heart to piercing pain;  
She knew the cost of love divine,  
When Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness  
And home in Galilee  
There comes a joy and holiness  
To every family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,  
Above all women blest;  
And blest your Son, whom your embrace  
In birth and death confessed

*JR Peacey (1896-1971)*

---

*We do not pass a collection plate during the Offertory, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work, ministry and maintenance of the Parish, there is provision at the back of church for donations in cash, weekly envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone using the reader at the back of the church. Thank you.*

---

**The choir will sing during the distribution of Communion**

---

## **Final Hymn**

**Sing we of the blessed Mother**  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed,  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of our redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And, in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

George B. Timms (1910-1997)

*organ voluntary :*

Magnificat Primi Toni

By Buxtehude

### **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**

Takes place Tonight

**21st December at 6:30pm**

Here, in St. Paul's Church

Mulled wine & mince pies will follow  
after the service

### ***Those Departed - Rest In Peace***

James (Jim) Ashcroft

Martha Wallbank

Iris Oldham



### **Morning Prayer**

Join us in the St Paul's Church chancel  
area for 15 minutes simple morning  
prayer and a bible thought on Mondays  
and Wednesdays at 9am  
(Do bring a bible if you can)

### **Brew Time**

Every Wednesday from 8.50am-11am  
in St Paul's Centenary Room.

**Brewtime will re-open on  
Wednesday 7th January.**

Kath & Jacqui, Bev & John & Judith

### **Welcome Cafe**

Meet weekly on Wednesdays during  
the school term in St. Paul's Church  
Centenary Room 3:00– 5:00pm

**Please Note!**

**Welcome Café will re-open  
Wednesday 7th January 2025.**

### **Next week's Services -**

Wed. 24th Dec— 5:00pm Crib Service at St. Paul's Church.

— 11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion Service at St. Lawrence's.

Thur. 25th Dec — 8:00am Early Christmas Communion at St. Lawrence's Church.

— 10:00am All Together service of Holy Communion at St. Lawrence's.

— No Evening Services.

Sunday 28th Dec — 10:00am Service of Holy Communion

with Children's Church at St. Paul's Church

— 6:30pm Service of Spoken Evensong at St. Lawrence's Church.