



MORNING PRAISE

PERSHORE ABBEY

Sunday, 24 December 2023

Advent 4/Christmas Eve

SERVICE SHEET, BULLETIN & DIARY

The 1030 Service from the Abbey will be live-streamed and available to view on our YouTube channel. To find the recording visit www.youtube.com and search for **Pershore Abbey Community** [Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden.

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the service booklet provided. Please take this sheet home with you and recycle when you have finished with it.

Welcome and Introduction

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

We have this advent wreath to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry bright candles,
and the white and shining King.**

**And one for God's people,
in every age and day,
we are watching for his coming.
We believe and we obey.**

**O, two is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
all alight for Christ the King.**

**And three for John the Baptist
He calls us on to sing:
'O prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming, Christ the King'.**

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who said she would obey.

**And four for Mother Mary
'I cannot see the way,
but you promise me a baby
I believe and I obey'.**

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom 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.**

HYMN 85

The Angel Gabriel

(Gabriel's Message)

1 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!

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

Gloria!

3 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!

4 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!

*[Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen (Basque Carol)
Paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

Please sit or kneel for the Prayers of Penitence

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

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us
in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the day

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading: Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations." '

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:
'I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.
I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.
I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.
He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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.

- 4 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)]

The Gospel – Luke 1.26-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be

barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection

Please stand for our Declaration of Faith

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,
who created everything in heaven and on earth.**

**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 Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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

Please sit or kneel as we offer God our Prayers and Thanks

*At the end of each prayer when you hear ‘God of love’ please respond ‘**hear our prayer**’*

We end by saying together 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.**

Hymn during which the collection will be taken:

HYMN 75 The time has come

1. The time has come when, from the past
prophetic words ring true at last;
Though earth's hostilities increase,
God's promise is of lasting peace.
 Hallelujah! Prepare the way.
 Hear what God's chosen prophets say.

2. The time has come to make it known
That every tear and pain and groan
Are registered in heaven above
To be redeemed by holy love.
 Hallelujah! Prepare the way.
 Only love lifts us from dismay.

3. The time has come to make amends:
Earth and its people should be friends.
Erase the policies of death,
Spread hope with every vital breath.
 Hallelujah! Prepare the way.
 God gladly come to earth to stay.

4. The time has come to share good news,
To sweep the floor and mend the shoes,
Prepare to protest, praise and dance
For God's eager to advance.
 Hallelujah! Expect a birth.
 God's gracious feet will touch the earth.

[John L Bell from Known Unknowns]
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Thanksgiving and Blessing

Lord our God, on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters the darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights, hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with joy as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: - Fugue a la gigue - Buxtehude

The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

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**If you would like to receive a gluten-free host during communion
please let a sidesperson know**

PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY

24 DECEMBER 2023

As a Kingdom People we are churches that seek to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Vicar: The Revd Canon Claire Lording

Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Revd Jayne Parker

Email: curate@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Abbey Wardens: Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293) Mrs Sam Andrews (01386 556083)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham

Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk **Website:** www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

BENEFICE OFFICE OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY - THURSDAY 1100 - 1200 ONLY

(excluding Bank Holidays)

Please email your enquiry to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or leave a message on 01386 552071 and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

OFFICE STAFFING OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Benefice Office will not be staffed over the Christmas period.

Our office staff will be on annual leave from:

12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023 until Tuesday 2 January 2024

All email enquiries and answerphone messages will be dealt with on their return.

If your enquiry is urgent please call the answerphone service on **01386 552071** to access the latest emergency contact details over the Christmas period.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING

PLEASE PRAY FOR

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT TODAY, PRAYING ESPECIALLY FOR ALL PEOPLES OF THE HOLY LAND. WE PRAY FOR LASTING PEACE.

We pray for those whose weddings, blessings and baptisms are taking place and for all those who are making new plans to celebrate these special life events.

We pray for all those welcoming new life into their families.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends.

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week.

PERSHORE ABBEY BULLETIN NOTICES

NEWS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in the Pershore Benefice. Thank you to everyone for all the many contributions to our life together during the past year. May we celebrate the coming of Christ with those we care about and look forward to all that next year holds. *Claire*

FOLLOW THE STAR: We still have a few copies of The Church of England's 2023 Christmas Campaign booklet, Follow the Star. You will be able to find these at the back of the Abbey. They are priced at £1.00.



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 1500: We are looking forward to celebrating the great Feast of Epiphany with a special carol service. If you would like to read at this service please get in touch with me as soon as possible. *Claire*

POST-CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA INVITATION: The PASA team are providing an afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes, savouries and of course a cuppa, for those who would like to share in friendship and fellowship after Christmas. Come along to St Andrew's Centre on Thursday 28 December, between 1430-1600 and bring a friend. Please ring the secretary of PASA, Jane on 01386 556981 to leave your names and if you have any dietary requirements for catering arrangements that would be appreciated by the team. *Thank you and the PASA Team look forward to seeing you there.*

CAFÉ CHURCH: Please note that Café Church takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month and not the 3rd Sunday as incorrectly advertised in the monthly bulletin. The next Café Church will therefore be at 0930, on Sunday 14 January 2024 at St Andrew's Centre.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION: On 3 January we are launching a new midweek communion service. The service will start at 1000 in the St John Chapel at the Abbey. It will be a simple said service and will be followed by refreshments with the chance to sit down and chat to others who have attended the service. If you don't feel like attending the service please do feel free to come along for refreshments and a chat, which will begin around 1045 and end at 1130. We look forward to welcoming those who would like a quiet communion service in the week and all those for whom getting to church on a Sunday is difficult. For more information please get in touch with me. *Claire*

ABBEY STITCH PROJECT ON DISPLAY: 'Streams of Consciousness' the Pershore Abbey and Pershore High School collaborative stitch project, facilitated by Meadow Arts is now on display in the south aisle. It's only here for a short time, so come and have a look while you can.



Pershore Abbey

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE
15:30
Pershore Abbey

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!

Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle



@pershoreabbeycom



@AbbeyPershore



@pershoreabbeycommunity

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk • office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

01386 552071

Pershore Abbey

MIDNIGHT MASS



CHRISTMAS EVE
23:15
Pershore Abbey

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
Pershore Abbey Community



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01386 552071

Pershore Abbey

ALL AGE EUCHARIST



CHRISTMAS DAY
10:30
Pershore Abbey

A family-friendly Christmas Day service for everyone, followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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Pershore Abbey

BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST



SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER
10:30
Pershore Abbey

Join us as we come together for our Benefice Service

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

Canon Claire's usual day off is Friday. Claire will not be available for commitments on this day.

Sunday 24 December - Advent 4/Christmas Eve

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Morning Praise with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

15:30 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

16:00 Christingle Service (*St Mary's, Wick*)

17:00 Crib and Christingle Service (*St Nicholas, Pinvin*)

23:15 Midnight Mass (*Pershore Abbey*)

PERSHORE ABBEY DAILY OFFICES

0800 Silent Prayer

0830 Matins

1700 Evening Prayer

Monday 25 December—Christmas Day

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

09:00 Parish Communion (*St Mary's, Wick*)

10:30 All Age Eucharist

with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Holy Communion (*St James', Birlingham*)

Tuesday 26 December - St Stephen

19:15 Private Meeting (*St Andrew's Upper*)

Wednesday 27 December - St John

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Thursday 28 December—Holy Innocents

10:30 Funeral Service for the late

Neville Andrews (*St James', Birlingham*)

12:15 Bell Ringing (*Pershore Abbey*)

12:00 PASA Afternoon Teas (*St Andrew's Main*)

15:00 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

17:00 Bell Ringing (*St Andrew's*)

Friday 29 December

13:00 CTiP Foodbank (*St Andrew's Main*)

19:30 Bells—Quarter Peal (*St Andrew's*)

Saturday 30 December

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Sunday 31 December - Christmas 1

08:00 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

10:30 Benefice Sung Eucharist

with *LIVESTREAM* (*Pershore Abbey*)

18:30 Bells - Quarter Peal (*Pershore Abbey*)



Facebook: [#pershoreabbeycom](https://www.facebook.com/pershoreabbeycom) YouTube: [Persnore Abbey Community](https://www.youtube.com/PershoreAbbeyCommunity)

Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

If you need any help in accessing any of the online features mentioned in the service sheet or bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the office or Canon Claire Lording for support.

