

Christmas Day

Family Holy Communion

Saturday 25th December 2021

Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

All Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

All He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.
We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Words of welcome are given.

Worship Song – Sing with the angels
(Performed by Sara, Claire, Mike and Esther)

All It's that special time of year
A time to celebrate.
For the greatest gift of all,
Was born on Christmas Day.

Bringing light to all the world
And joy for ev'ry one.
It's the story of new life.
The Prince of Peace has come.

Sing with the angels,
The Saviour is born.
Sing with the angels,
This happy Christmas morn'.

Let us share with one and all.
Our friends and family.
All the blessings that we have
Because of Christmas Day.

And for the children now we pray,
All around the world.
They will know god's love this way,
Each and ev'ry one.

CHORUS

He's the light of the world.
The light of the world.
Let His love shine in you.
Shine in your heart.

CHORUS x2

It's that special time of year
A time to celebrate.
For the greatest gift of all,
Was born on Christmas Day.

Lighting the Advent wreath

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people *shout*:

All Amen!

Angels dance
and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people *shout*:

All Amen!

One with us,
yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people *shout*:

All Amen!

All the candles on the wreath are lit.

The love of heaven has come to Earth.
The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond.

**All We light the Christ candle. May it light the way.
Alleluia! Amen!**

Musical Meditation – Sussex Carol

Saying sorry to God

As we kneel with the shepherds before the new-born Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all our sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All *Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.*

**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.**

*Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.*

**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.**

*Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.*

**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.**

*Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.*

Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

All Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 62.6-end

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Jerusalem, I put guards on your walls.
They will not be silent.
They will keep praying day and night.

Guards, keep praying to the LORD.
Remind him of his promise.
Don't ever stop praying.
Don't give him any rest until he rebuilds Jerusalem
and makes it a place that everyone on earth will praise.

The LORD made a promise and guaranteed it by his own power.
And he will use that power to keep his promise.
The Lord said, "I promise that I will never again give your food to your
enemies.

I promise that they will never again take the wine you make.
Whoever gathers the food will eat it and praise the LORD.
Whoever gathers the grape will drink the wine in the courtyards of my
Temple."

Come through the gates!
Clear the way for the people!
Prepare the road!
Move all the stones off the road!
Raise a flag as a sign for the nations!

Listen, the LORD is speaking
to all the faraway lands:
"Tell the people of Zion,
'Look, your Saviour is coming.
He is bringing your reward to you.
He is bringing it with him.'"

His people will be called "The Holy People,"
"The Saved People of the LORD."
And you, Jerusalem, will be called "The City God Wants,"
"The City God Is With."

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Carol – Brightest and best (no.85)

**All Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and Savior of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion
odours of Edom, and offering divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

Gospel Reading – Luke 2.1-20

Today Christ is born:
All alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:
All alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:
All alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list.

² This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ Everyone travelled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.

⁴ So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. ⁵ Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) ⁶ While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

⁸ That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid. ¹⁰ The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. I have some very good news for you – news that will make everyone happy. ¹¹ Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

¹³ Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying,

¹⁴ “Praise God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him.”

¹⁵ The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. ¹⁷ When they saw the baby, they told what the angels said about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Address – the greatest gift

(ft. Remember the Children – words and music by Andy & Sara)

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Between each petition:

Jesus, Saviour,
All hear our prayer.

at the end:

All Amen.

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

We offer one another a sign of peace.

Carol – Away in a manger (no.776)

All Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The Lord is here.

All God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

So your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song saying:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.
All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is his story.
All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.
All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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 the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Agnus Dei is said:

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

All Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The table is set and ready.
We are here because Jesus has called us –
strangers and friends,
locals and visitors,
believers and doubters,
the certain and the curious.
It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites all to his table where,
in bread ,
he meets us
and through him we,
who are different,
are joined to each other.

So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have struggled to do so;

Come just as you are.
It is Jesus Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We move forward to receive communion one row at a time.

For those unable or those who choose not to receive, you might like to pray:

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Son of Mary, Son of God,
we have joined the worship of the angels;
may we never lose that heavenly vision.
Like the shepherds,
we have rejoiced at the news of your birth;
help us to proclaim that message in word and deed,
to your praise and glory.

All Amen.

**All Lord God,
you feed us with the living bread from heaven;
renew our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love.
Teach us to hunger
for Christ who is the true and living bread,
and to live by every word
that comes from your mouth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Carol – O come, all ye faithful (no.479, v1,2,6,7)

**All O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels;**

*O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore Him...**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him...**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him...**

Blessing & Dismissal

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

*Revd. Joe Roberts and the Churchwardens would like to wish you
all a Merry Christmas and God's blessing for 2022.*