

For the safety of those worshipping in our buildings and in line with current Church of England guidelines:

*Please use the **hand sanitiser** stations when you enter the church, and before and after communion and when you leave.*

***Remain in the seat** the steward directed you to upon your arrival. At the distribution of communion please wait in your seat until the steward directs you to go forward.*

*The **wearing of masks is mandatory** in church, please remove your mask only when receiving communion.*

At the end of our worship stay seated until the steward indicates you can safely leave.

*Please **take this service sheet home with you.***

Sadly, there will be no gathering afterwards. The toilets are only available in emergencies.

*Personal **photographs you take in our church**, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

The recording of this service will be available later today online:

<https://rebrand.ly/saintsandhallows>

GREETING

The president says

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night,

Heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

All Amen.

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

All and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

BLESSING THE CRIB

Dear friends,
as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son born of the Virgin Mary
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this day your Son Jesus Christ
was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All **Amen.**

CONFESSION

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.

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 you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer:

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

The Collect is said:

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.**

READING Isaiah 62.6-12

Thus says the LORD:

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out'.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept.

READING Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life..

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2.8-20

This day Christ is born.

All Alleluia!

This day the Saviour comes.

All Alleluia!

This day 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.**

Silence may be kept.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

This response may be included:

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

**All Lord Jesus Christ, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT RING

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born,
and those who live in darkness
are seeing a great light.

Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest!

All **Amen.**

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.**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours
always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise
for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

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.

All 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 [*N and*] 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.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

All 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.

[or] 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

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.

All Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

WORDS OF DISTRIBUTION said to all here

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

All Amen.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion in one kind only which is distributed in silence.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with
you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

The ministers and people depart.

Please take this folio with you

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