



Bethlehem Mass

Christmas Eve
24 December 2021

A warm welcome to our worship this evening. Whether a regular or a visitor it is good to have you here. At All Hallows we continue to take precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible as we worship, the details of these are below. We hope that you find peace and spiritual refreshment this morning as we journey through the season of Advent.

*We continue to observe **social distancing rules** in our church during worship.*

*We encourage you to use the **hand sanitiser** stations when you arrive, before and after communion, and when you leave.*

*Please wear a **face mask**. You may remove your mask for a brief period when receiving communion. We continue to take **communion** in one kind only.*

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

***Personal photographs** you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

We stand as the bell sounds to mark the beginning of our worship. The minister(s) and the Child Bishop process into the church.

INTROIT Adolphe Adam: O Holy night

WELCOME

We remain standing as the minister welcomes us to the service.

CAROL

- 1 Hark ! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb !
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see :
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
- 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace !
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness !
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and others

GREETING

Minister 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.

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

All and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**All 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.**

CONFESSION

Minister Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
‘You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

Minister 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.

Minister 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.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

Minister 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:

Minister 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:

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept.

PSALM 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
 for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation;
 his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
 towards the house of Israel,
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
 break into singing and make music.

- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING Hebrews 1.1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

CAROL

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,

Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Joseph Mohr (1792–1848) tr. by John Freeman Young (1820–1885)

GOSPEL READING John 1.1-14

Minister This night Christ is born.

All Alleluia!

Minister This night the Saviour comes.

All Alleluia!

Minister This night the angels sing on earth.

All Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest.

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Minister 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

Minister 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:

Minister Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Minister Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people
who trust in your love.

By your coming,
raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven where you live and reign
with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT RING

Minister God our Father,
tonight 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.**

All candles are lit.

PEACE

Minister This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

Luke 2.14

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

CAROL

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Through all the earth, goodwill and peace
from heaven's all-gracious king!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

- 2 With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long
and, since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong:
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and cease the strife,
to hear the angels sing!
- 3 And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life
with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love
which makes the heavens ring!
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!
- 4 And still the days are hastening on —
by prophets seen of old —
towards the fulness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed shall see
the prince of peace, their king;
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810–1876) adapted by Jubilate Hymns
Adaptation: © in this version, The Jubilate Group. Adm. The Jubilate Group www.jubilate.co.uk*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Minister 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister 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 on this holy night 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.**

Minister 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.

All **Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Minister 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

Minister 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

Minister 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

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

ANTHEM John Rutter: The Sans Day Carol

CAROL

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
 how still we see thee lie!
 above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by:
 yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting Light;
 the hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.
- 2 O morning stars, together
 proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the King,
 and peace to men on earth.
 For Christ is born of Mary;
 and, gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep
 their watch of wondering love.
- 3 How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is given!
 so God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin, and enter in:
 be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell:
 O come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister God our Father, this night
you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.

All Amen.

**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.**

CAROL

- 1 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!*
- 2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:

BLESSING THE CRIB

Minister Dear friends,
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,
this night 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.

CAROL continues

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Adeste, fideles, (Latin, 18th century) translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others

BLESSING

Minister Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Minister Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

The ministers and people depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY We Wish You a Merry Christmas

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