



# Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve  
24 December 2022

*A warm welcome to our worship. Whether a regular or a visitor, it is good to have you here with us as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*We would ask that **any photographs you take in church**, which include children other than your own in them, be not published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

***We stand as the bell sounds** to mark the beginning of our worship. As we sing our first hymn the altar party and choir process into church.*

## WELCOME & 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.**

**CAROL** 10. Hark! the herald angels sing

## BLESSING THE CRIB

*The Christ child is placed in the crib and the following prayer is said as the crib is sprinkled with holy water.*

Minister 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,  
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.**

## **CONFESSION**

Minister 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.

*cf Matthew 1.21*

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.**

## ABSOLUTION

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.**

## GLORIA

Choir/All **Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
you bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, your glorious vict'ry won,  
receive our pray'r, grant us your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, you only are the Lord,  
at God's right hand in majesty most high:  
who with the Spirit worshipped and adored:  
with all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

*Frederick E Le Grice (1911-1992) © 1990 Kevin Mayhew Ltd; HymnQuest ID: 13993*

## COLLECT

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.**

## **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.**

## **CAROL** 13. Silent night

### **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.*

## **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:*

Father, in this holy night  
angels and shepherds  
worshipped at the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer  
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints,  
through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All**            **Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **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** 14. It came upon a midnight clear

## **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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC 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 sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Choir/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, 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.

Choir/All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

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

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins 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.*

**CHOIR CAROL** O holy night (*Adolphe Adam, arr. by John Rutter*)

**CAROL 1.** O little town of Bethlehem

## 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 12. O come, all ye faithful

## 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 C. M. Widor: Toccata in F

### **Worship this week:**

Sunday 25 December 8am Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 25 December 9.15am Eucharist at All Saints

Sunday 25 December 10am Eucharist at All Hallows

NO COMPLINE on Sunday 25 December

NO MORNING PRAYER on Tuesday 27 December

Wednesday 12.15pm Holy Communion at All Hallows

Thursday 9am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Thursday 10am BCP Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 1 January 8am Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 1 January 9.15am Eucharist at All Saints

Sunday 1 January 11.15am Eucharist at All Hallows

NO COMPLINE on Sunday 1 January

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