



Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

Christmas Day
25 December 2023

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

All that you need to follow the service from beginning to end is contained in this leaflet. If you would prefer a large print copy, please indicate this to the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.

There is no cash collection taken during the service, however, we welcome donations (large and small!) towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine, both of which can be found near the entrance of the 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 12. O come, all ye faithful

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES - CHRIST

Minister We light this candle for the newborn Christ,
reawakening hope and faith,
the Word embodied for our time.

All **God, as we receive your promise,
you are light, you are hope.**

All the candles are lit.

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

Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who has come into the world.

All Amen.

**All/choir Advent candles tell their story
on this Christmas Day.
Those who waited for God's glory:
they prepared the way.
Christ is with us: loving, giving,
in us living, here today!**

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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.

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

All/choir 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 in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

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 in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

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 in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Amen.

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:

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 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

CAROL 24. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy

GOSPEL READING Luke 2.1-20

Minister This day Christ is born.

All Alleluia!

Minister This day the Saviour comes.

All Alleluia!

Minister This day the angels sing on earth.

All Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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.

CREED

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

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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:

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

Silence is kept.

PEACE

Minister 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.

CAROL 5. The first Nowell

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 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.

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

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

All/choir 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.

COMMUNION MOTET Harold Darke: In the bleak mid-winter

1 In the bleak mid-winter frosty winds may moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

- 2 Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him, or earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, And a manger full of hay,
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.
- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what can I give him? Give my heart.

CAROL 13. Silent Night

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister 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.

CAROL 11. Joy to the world

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 Martin Setchell: Joy to the World

DIARY

Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day

8:00-8:30

All Saints

Holy Communion

9:15-10:15

All Saints

Eucharist

10:00-11:00

All Hallows

Eucharist

Tues 26 Dec Stephen

Bank holiday

Wed 27 Dec John the Evangelist

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

10:30-12:30

All Hallows

open to the public

12:15-12:45

All Hallows

Midweek Eucharist

Thurs 28 Dec Holy Innocents

Fri 22 Dec

Thomas Becket

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

Sat 30 Dec

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

10:30-12:30

All Hallows

open to the public

Sun 31 Dec First Sunday after Christmas

10:00-11:00

All Saints

Benefice service

All Saints and All Hallows, Wellingborough

phone: 07525705289 / 01933 278484

email: office@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

website: allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

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