



Holy Communion

All Saints' 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, 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.**

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 5. The first Nowell

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 1 O little town of Bethlehem

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 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.

Minister 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.

Minister 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 our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Minister 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 our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Minister 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.

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 **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;
glory to the Lord God almighty.
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord;
glory to the Lord God almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come,
glory, glory, glory to the Lord.**

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.

CAROL 19 Once in Royal David's City

CAROL 6 Away in a Manger

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 10 Hark! the Herald Angels

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 Noel Rawsthorne: Adeste Fideles

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

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