



Holy Communion

All Saints' Church

First Sunday of Christmas

31 December 2023

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether you are here for the first time or a more regular worshipper, we are delighted to have you with us, and we hope that you will enjoy the service.

After the service refreshments are served at the back of church, please do join us.

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 at the back of the church.

HYMN

Chorus *Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation, there's a new King born today!*

- 1 See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them:
- 2 Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so,
- 3 'God is with us,' round the world the message bring,
he is with us, 'Welcome,' all the bells on earth are pealing:

Valerie Collison (b. 1933) Words and Music: © Hye-Fye Music Ltd Permission applied for

GREETING

Minister In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome may be said.

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

Deacon 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.

All Lord God,
 we have sinned against you;
 we have done evil in your sight.
 We are sorry and repent.
 Have mercy on us according to your love.
 Wash away our wrongdoing
 and cleanse us from our sin.
 Renew a right spirit within us
 and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Minister Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 who in his great mercy
 has promised forgiveness of sins
 to all those who with heartfelt repentance
 and true faith turn to him:
 have mercy on you,
 pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
 confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
 and bring you to everlasting life,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

GLORIA

All/choir Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. [x2]

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, peace to his people on earth. [x2]

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, have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. [x2]

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. Amen. [x2]

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect is said.

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

READING Galatians 4.4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

CAROL 18 Angels from the realms of glory

GOSPEL READING Luke 2.15-21

All/choir Alleluia!

Cantor The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All/choir Alleluia!

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given –
let us bring before God the needs of the world.

This response may be included:

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

And at the end:

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

Silence is kept.

**All Almighty Lord,
hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PEACE

Minister Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

Deacon Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

CAROL 24. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy

TABLE PRAYER

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 is here.

All His spirit is with us.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister 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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.

All/choir Jesus, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us [*x2*].

 Jesus, bread of life,
 you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us [*x2*].

 Jesus, Prince of Peace,
 you take away the sins of the world:
 grant us your peace [*x4*].

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 13 Silent night

CAROL 7 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister Heavenly Father,
 whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
 the life of an earthly home:
 help your Church to live as one family,
 united in love and obedience,
 and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Almighty God,
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

CAROL

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven,
and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

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.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people and ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Friedrich Zachau: In Dulci Jubilo

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in **body, mind or spirit**, among them Richard Hole, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath Thomas, June Morby, Jenny Attewell, Hilly S, Diana Brown, Graham Earl, Mary Ricketts, Don Stevens, Marion Dent, John Burton.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then please email Pat Thomas (pat_hotmail.co.uk) with the name of the person to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Yvonne Round, Gordon Hunter, Ted Rudd, Irene Mary Gould, Mabel Clara Howell, Alice Coombes, Frank Linnell, Michael Jenner Wrenn, Dorothy Mary Linnell, Margaret Rosina Wittingham, Kathleen Higgs, Russell Dickens, Peter Moore, Clive Bishop, Vera Ward, Mollie Bradfield, Winifred Dickenson, Frank Toseland, Edward Greig, Gladys Foden, Agnes Cope, Cicely Wilson, Mena Foster .

NOTICES

Thursday morning 10am BCP Holy Communion at All Saints has been put on hold over the winter months. We are also not having **Morning Prayer** until 9 January, and **Compline** until 21 January.

Benefice magazine deadline 7 January. Please send your articles for the Winter issue to Becky at magazine@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

DIARY

Mon 1 Jan

Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Tues 2 Jan

Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

Coffee shop

Wed 3 Jan

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 4 Jan

Fri 5 Jan

Twelfth Night

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

18:15-19:45

All Hallows

junior choir practice

19:30-21:00

All Hallows

adult choir practice

Sat 6 Jan

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

9:30-10:15

All Hallows

MU Holy Communion

10:15-10:45

All Hallows

Benefice Prayer Group

10:30-12:30

All Hallows

open to the public

Sun 7 Jan

Epiphany

8:00-8:30

All Saints

Holy Communion

9:15-10:15

All Saints

Family Eucharist

11:15-12:15

All Hallows

Eucharist

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