



# Holy Communion

## All Hallows Church

Epiphany  
7 January 2024

*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.*

*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.*

*Refreshments are served before the service, feel free to take your drink to your pew for the start of the service.*

*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.*

### HYMN

1 We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*Chorus O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
king for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:

3 Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high:

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

*The hymn pauses. The president moves to the crib, blesses it and sprinkles it with holy water. The hymn continues.*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

*Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)*

## **GREETING**

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

All **Amen.**

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

All **From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

Minister The Lord of glory be with you.

All **The Lord bless 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 The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

Minister God be gracious to us and bless us,  
and make your face shine upon us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Minister May your ways be known on the earth,  
your saving power among the nations:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Minister You, Lord, have made known your salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## **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, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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, Amen.**

## **COLLECT**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer.*

Minister Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,  
let us pray.

*The Collect is said.*

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

### **FIRST READING** Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

### **SECOND READING** Ephesians 3.1-12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches

of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may be kept.*

## **HYMN**

- 1 Bethlehem, what greater city  
can in fame with you compare?  
For the gracious God of heaven  
chose to meet our people there.
- 2 Was there ever beauty brighter  
than the star which shone that night  
to proclaim the incarnation  
of our God, the world's true light?
- 3 From the East come men of learning,  
rich the treasures that they hold —  
tributes to a greater wisdom,  
gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.
- 4 Sacrifice, redeemer, saviour!  
Incense shows that God has come,  
gold, our mighty king proclaims him,  
myrrh foretells his silent tomb.
- 5 Jesus Christ, to you be glory,  
Lord of lords whom we adore  
with the Father and the Spirit:  
God be praised for evermore!

*Michael Perry (1942–1996) based on O sola magnarum urbium - Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–c.413)  
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## **GOSPEL READING Matthew 2.7-11**

**All/choir Alleluia!**

Cantor Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations,  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All/choir Alleluia!**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.  
Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,  
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

*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.*

## PEACE

Minister Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

*cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

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

## HYMN

- 1 From the eastern mountains  
pressing on they come,  
wise men in their wisdom,  
to his humble home;  
stirred by deep devotion,  
hasting from afar,  
ever journeying onward,  
guided by a star.
- 2 There their Lord and Saviour  
meek and lowly lay,  
wondrous light that led them  
onward on their way,  
ever now to lighten  
nations from afar,  
as they journey homeward  
by that guiding star.
- 3 Thou who in a manger  
once hast lowly lain,  
who dost now in glory  
o'er all kingdoms reign,  
gather in the peoples,  
who in lands afar  
ne'er have seen the brightness  
of thy guiding star.
- 4 Onward through the darkness  
of the lonely night,  
shining still before them  
with thy kindly light,  
guide them, Jew and Gentile,  
homeward from afar,  
young and old together,  
by thy guiding star.
- 5 Until every nation,  
whether bond or free,  
'neath thy star-lit banner,  
Jesu, follow thee  
o'er the distant mountains  
to that heavenly home,



where nor sin nor sorrow  
evermore shall come.

*Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)*

## TABLE PRAYER

Minister Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in praise  
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

## EUCCHARISTIC 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 All honour and praise be yours  
always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

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/choir **Holy, Holy holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n 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 Believing the promises of God,  
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 God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.

All/choir Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give 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 midwinter

- 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.

## **HYMN**

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Chrous* *Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

- 2 Then wise men from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star;  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:
- 3 At Bethlehem they entered in,  
on bended knee they worshipped him;  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
- 4 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;

for Christ has our salvation wrought  
and with his blood our life has bought:

*Cornish carol, possibly 18th century adapted by Michael Perry (1942-1996)*  
*Words: © in this version, The Jubilate Group. Administered by The Jubilate Group*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, 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

### HYMN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,<br>Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,<br>manifested by the star<br>to the sages from afar;<br>branch of royal David's stem<br>in thy birth at Bethlehem:<br>anthems be to thee address,<br>God in man made manifest. | 3 Manifest in making whole<br>palsied limbs and fainting soul;<br>manifest in valiant fight,<br>quelling all the devil's might;<br>manifest in gracious will,<br>ever bringing good from ill:<br>anthems be to thee address,<br>God in man made manifest.                                     |
| 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,<br>Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;<br>and at Cana wedding-guest<br>in thy Godhead manifest;<br>manifest in power divine,<br>changing water into wine:<br>anthems be to thee address,<br>God in man made manifest. | 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,<br>stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;<br>Christ will then like lightning shine,<br>all will see his glorious sign;<br>all will then the trumpet hear,<br>all will see the Judge appear:<br>thou by all wilt be confest,<br>God in man made manifest. |

5 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807–1885)*

## **BLESSING**

Minister May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**All Amen.**

Minister May God,  
who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**All Amen.**

Minister May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts  
and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

Minister 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 We have seen his glory,  
the glory revealed to all the nations.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The people and ministers depart.*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** Percy Whitlock : Paean

## 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, 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:** Donald Richard Partridge, Phyllis Gwendoline Lambert, John Gregory Charles Holloway, Alan Biggs, Glynnis Patrica Bourne, Annie May Cox, Charles Henry Fair, Angela McHugh, John Edward Benbow, Walter Armstrong, Emma Petrikat, Gordon Flex, Helen Rowlatt, Sarah Emma Barron, Mary Barbara Wren, Alan Mitchell, Gladys Kathleen Charlton, Sylvia Pettit, Chris Christison, Dorothy Charles, John Harwood, Septimus Orton, Maisie Blenkham, Diana Smith, Evelyn Tear, Gordon Kingham, Lilian Greig, Christine McAndrew, Michael Buck, Ruth McGraw, Brian McGraw, Winifred Ward, Millicent Campbell.

**The recently departed**, among them Hilly Sharp. Her funeral will be held on 17 January at 14:00 at All Hallows. We pray for those who mourn.

## NOTICES

**Thursday morning 10am BCP Holy Communion** at All Saints has been put on hold over the winter months. **Morning Prayer** will resume on 9 January, and **Compline** on 21 January.

**Benefice magazine deadline** 7 January. Please send your articles for the Winter issue to Becky at [magazine@allhallowsandsaintswellingborough.co.uk](mailto:magazine@allhallowsandsaintswellingborough.co.uk)

**Tea @2** Tuesday 9 January, St Andrew's Hall.

**Choral Evensong** Sunday 14 January 18:00, All Hallows.

## DIARY

### Mon 8 Jan

9:15-11:00 All Hallows' Hall Little Acorns pre-school group

### Tues 9 Jan

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer  
9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
14:00-15:00 St Andrew's Hall Tea @2

### Wed 10 Jan

9:00-9:45 All Hallows school worship  
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 11 Jan

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer

### Fri 12 Jan **Aelred of Hexham**

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
18:15-19:45 All Saints junior choir practice  
19:30-21:00 All Saints adult choir practice

### Sat 13 Jan **Hilary**

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
10:30-12:30 All Hallows open to the public

### Sun 14 Jan **Epiphany 2**

9:15-10:15 All Saints Family Eucharist  
11:15-12:15 All Hallows Eucharist  
18:00-19:00 All Hallows Choral Evensong

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