



Midnight Mass
All Hallows Church
Christmas Eve
24 December 2025

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

*To follow the service, please use this leaflet. The carols can be found in the **Carol Sheet** you have been given as you came in. For a large print copy, please ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.*

*If you receive **communion** in your own church, you are welcome to receive it here as well. If you would like a blessing only, please bring your service sheet with you to indicate this to the person distributing communion. If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell one of the robed serving team before the service.*

All donations collected at this service go to Hospice UK whose aim is to ensure everyone's access to a dignified end-of-life care; to support hospices to maintain high-quality care; and to secure funding and staffing for them. You can make a donation by either leaving cash in the collection plate on the table by the door, or using our contactless card machine, or scanning the QR code on the last page.

Choir Introit Martin Shaw: Gloria in Excelsis Deo

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

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

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.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol 14. It came upon a midnight clear

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/choir 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/choir 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.**

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 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.**

Eucharistic 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:

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 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 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.

Carol 1. O little town of Bethlehem

Motet Adolphe Adam: O holy Night

- 1 O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.
- 2 Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!
- 3 Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

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.

Dismissal

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: Marche Pontifical

*The vicar and the churchwardens of All Hallows wish you
a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.*

*You are warmly invited
to our **Christmas morning services on 25 December:**
at 9:15 at All Saints Church
and at 10:00 at All Hallows Church,*

*and also to our **joint Benefice Service on Sunday 28 December**
at 10:00 at All Hallows Church.*

All Saints and All Hallows, Wellingborough

phone: 07525705289 / 01933 278484

email: office@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

website: allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk



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