



Holy Communion

All Saints Church

Christmas Day

25 December 2025

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.

*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.*

***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.*

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 19. Once in royal David's city

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!**

Mark Earey © 2002 Mark Earey

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.

Frederick E Le Grice (1911-1992) © 1990 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

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.

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

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 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:

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

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 11. Joy to the world!

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 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 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 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
 holy is the Lord God almighty.
 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
 holy is the Lord God almighty,
 who was, and is and is to come.
 Holy, holy, holy is 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 6. Away in a manger

Motet Hector Berlioz: Shepherds' farewell

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 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.

Carol 10. Hark! the herald angels sing

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

Colin Mawby: Prelude on *Unto us a boy is born*

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

*You are warmly invited
to our joint Benefice Service on Sunday 28 December
at 10:00 at All Hallows Church.*

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