

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Saturday 25th December 2021. Christmas Day Eucharist

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Christmas Day Eucharist Service. We especially welcome those who are joining us specifically for our Christmas Celebrations, either here in Church or via Zoom from their homes.

This is a very special day: today we remember that God's only Son came to dwell on earth and that he experienced not only the joys of being human, but all the pains, trials and anguish too.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful (479)

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels.

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created.

Refrain

3. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear,
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps.

Refrain

4. **Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh,
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations**
Refrain
5. **Child, for us sinners,
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with love and awe,
who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?**
Refrain
6. **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
In the highest:**
Refrain

Translated from the Latin (18th century) by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)

Blessing of the Crib

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 on this day 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

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.**

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.**

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

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

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God,
heavenly 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.

Collect

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 52:7-10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains,
bringing good news, the news of peace!

He announces victory and says to Zion, "Your God is king!"

Those who guard the city are shouting, shouting together for joy.

They can see with their own eyes the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem!

The Lord will rescue his city and comfort his people.

The Lord will use his holy power; he will save his people, and all the world will see it.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the Lord;
he has done wonderful things!
By his own power and holy strength
he has won the victory.

**The Lord announced his victory;
he made his saving power known to the nations.
He kept his promise to the people of Israel
with loyalty and constant love for them.**

All people everywhere have seen the victory of our God.
Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth;
praise him with songs and shouts of joy!

**Sing praises to the Lord!
Play music on the harps!
Blow trumpets and horns,
and shout for joy to the Lord, our king.**

Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
sing, earth, and all who live on you!
Clap your hands, you rivers;
you hills, sing together with joy before the Lord,
because he comes to rule the earth.

**He will rule the peoples of the world
with justice and fairness.**

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for the sins of all human beings, he sat down in heaven at the right side of God, the Supreme Power.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Acclamation

Today Christ is born: *All Alleluia.*
Today the Saviour has come: *All Alleluia.*
Today the angels sing on earth: *All Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.*

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
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 **Praise to you, O Christ**

Talk

Carol: While Shepherd's Watched (745)

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around**

**"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind"**

**"To you, in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"**

**"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid"**

**Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song**

**"All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to all
Begin and never cease"**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

Merciful God, accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (508)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
- 3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St. Christopher and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Distribution of Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

If you wish to receive holy communion please stand

The body of Christ

All **Amen**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Carol – Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Carol: Hark the Herald (266)

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth

*Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Blessing and Dismissal

As you go out into the world,
may you be thankful for the gifts bestowed on you,
and the opportunities given to you.
May you resolve anew to use these
for the furtherance of God's kingdom here on earth.
And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

***If you are in the church, please stay in your place until
you are directed by a steward to leave the building.***

*Please wear a mask when moving around the Church,
and limit the number of people you come in contact with*

Please respect that others may not be comfortable with close contact.

*The general principle of remaining socially distanced
(minimum of 2m) from anyone not in your household
is a great defence against spreading COVID.*

***Thank you for filling in our COVID-19 track and trace book, if you
feel unwell during the week, please ring 07824 323815 so that we
can contact others who were here today.***

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