

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 1st January 2023 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Eucharist Service on the 1st Sunday of Christmas. We especially welcome those who are joining us specifically for our Christmas Celebrations, either here in Church or via Zoom from their homes.

As we gather in the afterglow of Christmas Day, we call to mind how God's faithfulness and steadfast love continue with us even in the deepest complexities of the human condition. Let us bring our lives before God now.

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: The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (670)

Confession

God pours peace and mercy into our lives and longs for us to open our hearts to receive these great gifts. Let us bring our lives before God, in all their imperfection, and take hold of this new beginning that Christmas represents.

When we forget that God's steadfast love and faithfulness go on for ever.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

When we fail to understand that Jesus is our Saviour in all our distress.

Christ, have mercy. *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

When we ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit, who saves us.

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

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

All Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love; I praise him for all he has done for us.
He has richly blessed the people of Israel because of his mercy and constant love.

The Lord said, "They are my people; they will not deceive me." And so he saved them from all their suffering. It was not an angel, but the Lord himself who saved them. In his love and compassion he rescued them. He had always taken care of them in the past.

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

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven, you that live in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels, all his heavenly armies.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, shining stars.

Praise him, highest heavens, and the waters above the sky.

Let them all praise the name of the Lord! He commanded, and they were created;
by his command they were fixed in their places forever, and they cannot disobey.

**Praise the Lord from the earth, sea monsters and all ocean depths;
lightning and hail, snow and clouds, strong winds that obey his command.**

Praise him, hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests;
all animals, tame and wild, reptiles and birds.

**Praise him, kings and all peoples, princes and all other rulers;
young women and young men, old people and children too.**

Let them all praise the name of the Lord!
His name is greater than all others; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He made his nation strong, so that all his people praise him—
the people of Israel, so dear to him. Praise the Lord!**

Carol: Silent Night (597)

Acclamation

Alleluia,
May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
Let the message of Christ find a home with you
All Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, “Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave.”

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

When Herod realized that the visitors from the East had tricked him, he was furious. He gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its neighbourhood who were two years old and younger—this was done in accordance with what he had learned from the visitors about the time when the star had appeared.

In this way what the prophet Jeremiah had said came true:

“A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is crying for her children; she refuses to be comforted, for they are dead.”

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead.” So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went back to Israel.

But when Joseph heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. He was given more instructions in a dream, so he went to the province of Galilee and made his home in a town named Nazareth. And so what the prophets had said came true: "He will be called a Nazarene."

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Talk

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

The Peace

We are God's people, and God is our Saviour. God is with us, calling us to peace.

The peace of Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We share a sign of peace

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (508)

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.

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Choir: Like a Candle Flame (399)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for private prayer)

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

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
now and for ever.

All **Amen**

Carol: Come on and Celebrate (125)

Blessing and Dismissal

May you know the abundance of God's steadfast love,
the knowledge of God's mercy and the peace of God's presence.
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.**