

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 25th December 2022. 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.

The glory of the Lord shines around us as we share good news of great joy for all people. Let us joyfully worship God who, in great tenderness, comes to dwell in our midst.

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)

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

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.

The light of God shines on all who walk in darkness, yet so often we prefer the darkness and fear the light.

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

God breaks the yoke of the burden of oppression, yet so often we work hard to replace it.

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

God establishes and upholds the kingdom with justice and righteousness, yet so often we choose the path of sin.

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 9:2-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.
You have given them great joy, Lord; you have made them happy.
They rejoice in what you have done, as people rejoice when they harvest grain

or when they divide captured wealth.
For you have broken the yoke that burdened them
and the rod that beat their shoulders.
You have defeated the nation that oppressed and exploited your people,
just as you defeated the army of Midian long ago.
The boots of the invading army and all their bloodstained clothing
will be destroyed by fire.
A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler.
He will be called, "Wonderful Counsellor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father,"
"Prince of Peace."
His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace.
He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice,
from now until the end of time.
The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this.

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

Psalm 96

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Sing to the Lord, and praise him!

**Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.
Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty deeds to all peoples.**

The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;
he is to be honoured more than all the gods.
The gods of all other nations are only idols, but the Lord created the heavens.

**Glory and majesty surround him; power and beauty fill his Temple.
Praise the Lord, all people on earth; praise his glory and might.**

Praise the Lord's glorious name; bring an offering and come into his Temple.
Bow down before the Holy One when he appears;
tremble before him, all the earth!

**Say to all the nations, "The Lord is king!
The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with justice."**

Be glad, earth and sky! Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
be glad, fields, and everything in you!

**The trees in the woods will shout for joy
when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.**

Carol: Joy to the World (320)

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: Luke 2.1-20

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

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

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

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to the whole world.

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.

Chant: Laudate Dominum (933)

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

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)

Blessing and Dismissal

May you go from here like the shepherds,
glorifying and praising God for all you have heard and seen.
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.**