

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS



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.

(John 1.14)

CHRISTMAS SEASON

WE GATHER TOGETHER

When the congregation is seated the choir gathers at the back of the church and the lights are dimmed. The first verse of the processional hymn is sung as a solo after which the congregation stands to sing the 2nd verse.

WELCOME

♪ **Processional Hymn** (*Stand after solo first verse*)

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, it is this Christmastide our joy and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and the baby lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first day of our disobedience to the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in our community of Hinchley Wood and diocese of Guildford.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (Sit)

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

May almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all.

Amen

1st Reading (*Sit*)

 Choir Carol (*Sit*)

2nd Reading (*Sit*)

 Hymn (*Stand*)

3rd Reading (*Sit*)

 Hymn (*Stand*)

4th Reading (*Sit*)

 Choir Carol (*Sit*)

5th Reading (*Sit*)

 Hymn (*Stand*)

6th Reading (*Sit*)

 Choir Carol (*Sit*)

7th Reading *(Sit)*

 **Hymn** *(Stand)*

8th Reading *(Sit)*

 **Hymn** *(Stand)*

During the hymn the welcomers light the choir and congregation's candles and the light is passed along from one to another.

We remain standing for the final reading as the book of the Gospels is brought into the body of the church.

9th Reading from the Gospel *(Stand)*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

(John 1.1-14)

 **Hymn** *(Stand)*

PRAYERS (*Sit*)

Lord of All, we give you thanks because in choosing the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son you have exalted the humble and meek. Your angel hailed her as most highly favoured; with all generations we call her blessed and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name.

Amen

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

BLESSING (*Stand*)

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen

 **Processional Hymn** (*Stand*)

Please do stay for refreshments at the back of church after the service with other members of the congregation.