

Christmas Eve  
24 December 2024  
Midnight Mass

A warm welcome to all who have come here tonight to rejoice at the Christmas story in Scripture, song, prayer, sacrament and silence. All the words you need are on this sheet. Please join in the words that are in **bold** type.

Organ: Noel X – Claude D’Aquin (1694-1772)

Opening hymn and Greeting

The bell rings and we stand, as we are able, and sing:

**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 pro-  
claim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:**

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

**Christ, by highest heaven  
adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead  
see,  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to  
dwell,**

**Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Refrain***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:  
*Refrain***

Charles Wesley  
(1707-88)

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.

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

Confession

We are invited to confess our sins:

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We receive an absolution, assuring us of God's forgiveness

The Gloria and Collect

We sing the Salazar Gloria. The congregation sings the refrain (below) while a cantor sings the 5 verses of the Gloria:



Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Readings (we sit)

First Reading (Isaiah 9.2-7)

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

**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 to-night.**

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering  
love.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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.

*Phillips Brooks  
(1835-93)*

Second reading (Titus 2.11-14)

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

*(We stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia alleluia.**  
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born  
this day a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **Alleluia, alleluia,**  
**Alleluia alleluia.**

*Please stand for the Gospel reading (Luke 2.1-20)*

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

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

*Sermon— Fr Bill Addy*

*The Creed (We stand)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with  
the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the

Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake  
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was  
buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who**  
proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and  
the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the  
prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We**  
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. **We look**  
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to  
come. **Amen.**

*The Intercessions (please kneel or sit)*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*The response to petitions is:* Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:* ... through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus  
Christ. **Amen.**

*The Peace (we stand)*

*The Peace is introduced, followed by:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Offertory Hymn*

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,**  
**From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:**  
**"Peace on the earth, good-will to men,**  
**From heaven's all gracious King!"**  
**The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,**  
**With peaceful wings unfurled;**  
**And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;**  
**Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;**  
**And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

*Edmund Sears  
(1810-76)*

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

*A prayer is said over the gifts on the altar, to which we respond* **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The seasonal part of the prayer follows and at the end we sing the Sanctus by  
John Lillis in dialogue with the cantor:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,  
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.**

*We pray for the Holy Spirit to transform us and the gifts, and then the words of  
Jesus at the Last Supper are recalled:*

*The following acclamation is then used:*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The prayer continues with oblation and intercession, ending*

*...we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:*

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and  
ever. Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with  
confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*We sing a Taize setting of the Agnus Dei. The tune is played first on the organ:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us. (repeated)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*If you normally receive Communion in your own church then you are welcome  
to do so here, or you may prefer the priest to pray for God's blessing on  
you. There are two standing stations for Communion in the centre but if you  
would prefer to kneel to receive Communion then please use the rail in the  
south aisle on the congregation's left side.*

*Please indicate if you would rather receive a blessing.  
Gluten-free hosts are available.*

*During Communion we sing:*

**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.**

*A cantor sings:*

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly 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 the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

*Joseph Mohr  
(1792-1848)*

*Post-Communion Prayers (We stand at 'Let us pray')*

*At the end of the post-communion prayer we say together*

**To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Hymn*

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

**God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created: Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of Angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, In the Highest: Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

*Latin, 18th century*

*The Blessing and Dismissal*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*Organ: In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

**With best wishes for a very happy Christmas  
from everyone at St Nick's**

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