

Christmas Day  
25 December 2024  
Parish Eucharist

*A warm welcome to all who have come here today 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—Henri Mulet (1867-1967)*

Opening hymn and Greeting

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

**Jesus Christ the Lord is born all the bell are ringing!**  
**Angels greet the holy One**  
**And shepherds hear them singing,**  
**And shepherds hear them singing.**

**‘Go to Bethlehem today, find your king and saviour:**  
**Glory be to God on high,**  
**To earth his peace and favour,**  
**To earth his peace and favour!’**

**Held within a cattle stall, loved by love maternal,**  
**See the master of us all,**  
**Our Lord of lords eternal,**  
**Our Lord of lords eternal!**

**Death from life and life from death our salvation’s story:**  
**Let all living things give breath**  
**To Christmas songs of glory,**  
**To Christmas songs of glory!**

*Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996) based on Puer nobis nascitur, Latin 15thC*  
*Music: ‘Puer Nobis Nascitur’ Melody form Pias Cantiones (1582)*

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

*The final candle on the Advent wreath is lit*

People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s peace. All God’s people say: **Amen!**  
Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ’s light. All God’s people say: **Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s love. All God’s people say: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

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

*The congregation sings the refrain (below) while cantor sings the 5 verses of the Gloria:*



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. **Amen.**

Readings (we sit)

First Reading (Isaiah 52.7-10)

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

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy,

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

*Music: W. Holford's Voce di Melodia (c.1834)*

Second reading (Hebrews 1.1-4)

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

*(We stand)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*Please stand for the Gospel reading (John 1.1-14)*

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

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

*Sermon— Mthr Jennifer Brady*

*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*

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**See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
See the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years!**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!*

*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*

*Sing through all Jerusalem:*

*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

**Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime, sits above the cherubim!**

*Refrain*

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, on the lonely mountain steep?**

*Refrain*

**'As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels, singing "Peace on earth," told us of a Saviour's birth.'**

*Refrain*

**Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!**

*Refrain*

*Words: Edward Caswell (1814-78) Music: 'Humility' John Goss (1800-80)*

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

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*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 in dialogue:*

**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:*

**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:

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

*Words: Author unknown Little children's book Philadelphia (1885)  
Music: Melody by William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

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

*After the post-communion prayer we say together*

**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.**

Final Hymn

**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, ioin 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.***

**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***

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: Toccata from Symphonie Nr.5 - Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

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

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