

**ST NICOLAS' CHURCH
Abingdon**

Friday 25 December 2020

**Christmas Day
HOLY COMMUNION**



Officiant: Bishop Henry Scriven

Organist: Jon Bentley

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

Blessing the Crib

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.

O God the Son, highest and holiest,
who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death:
bring us with the shepherds and the wise men
to kneel before your holy cradle,
that we may come to sing with your angels
your glorious praises in heaven;
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,
God, world without end

Lighting the Christ Candle

**Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.
Help us to live by your light to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.**



O Come, all ye faithful

Latin, 18th century, tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-1880,
Oxford Trinity Choir

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:

O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

O come, let us adore him...

Yea Lord, we greet thee
Born this happy morning
Son of the Father,
Now in fleshing appearing

O come, let us adore him...

Prayers of Penitence

The Son of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him. Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

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.

We say together

The 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.**

The Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature
upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who
have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may
daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

For the gift of the word

Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1: 1 – 12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Son Is Superior to Angels

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”
Of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”
But of the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”
And,
“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”
For the gift of the word
Thanks be to God

Please remain seated as we meditate on the words below (with organ accompaniment – but please DO NO SING!)

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour

(Words: Frank Houghton 1894-1972)

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becomest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.

Gospel Reading

John 1: 1 – 14

Today Christ is born:

Alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:

Alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and 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.

Please kneel, sit, or remain standing for the

Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Saviour,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Saviour,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds;
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Saviour,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Saviour,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,

Hear our prayer.

All pray together:

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer.

Glory to you for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a son is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

And also with you

We show a sign of peace to our neighbour, without physical sharing

The preparation of the Altar

Please remain seated as we meditate on the words below – but please DO NOT SING!

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

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.
And now we give you thanks
because in coming to dwell among us as man,
he revealed the radiance of your glory
and brought us out of darkness
into your own marvellous light.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy, 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:

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 Nicolas, 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.
Amen..

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour
Christ 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

*If you would like to receive communion,
please come forward and keep as much social distance as possible;
the president distributes the host in silence*

*During the distribution of communion, please remain seated as we meditate on
the words below*

Still the night, holy the night

Rev. Joseph Mohr, 1816

Based on the translation by Rev. Stopford A. Brooke (1832-1916)

Still the night, Holy the night,
Sleeps the world, hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare,
Watch o'er the child, beloved and fair,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Still the night, Holy the night,
Shepherds first saw the light,
Heard resounding clear and strong,
Far and near, the Angels song,
Christ the Redeemer is here,
Christ the Redeemer is here.

Still the night, Holy the night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Love is smiling from thy face,
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour since thou art born,
Saviour since thou art born.

See amid the winter's snow

Edward Caswall 1814-1878

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 blessèd 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 amid the cherubim!

Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!

Say, you holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!

"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."

Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!

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

Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!

Post-Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks 1835-1893; Melody:Walford Davies

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 tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all the 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 giv'n!
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!

The Blessing

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 Godbearer, give you grace to
carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

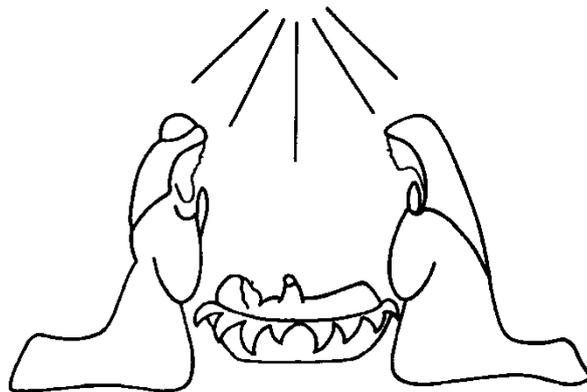
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you today and remain with
you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise be to God.



**Please maintain social distancing as you leave
and take this Service Booklet with you, Thank you**

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