



St **NICOLAS' CHURCH**
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

**The Feast of
The Blessed Virgin Mary**

A Service of the Word

with

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child



Sunday 15 August 2021

Officiant: The Revd Paul Smith, Team Vicar

Welcome and Notices

Introduction

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn:

Sing we of the Blesséd Mother CP 241

Sing we of the blesséd Mother
who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the Joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blesséd,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

G B Timms (1910-1997)

Confession

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Promise of Forgiveness (Absolution)

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Collect

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading:

Galatians 4: 4 - 7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

For the gift of the word:

Thanks be to God

Second Reading:

Luke 1: 46 - 55

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

For the gift of the word:

Thanks be to God

Hymn:

The God whom earth and sea and sky CP 243

The God whom earth and sea and sky
adore and laud and magnify,
whose might they own, whose praise they tell,
in Mary's body deigned to dwell.

O Mother blest, the chosen shrine
wherein the Architect divine,
whose hand contains the earth and sky,
vouchsafed in hidden guise to lie:

Blest in the message Gabriel brought;
blest in the work the Spirit wrought;
most blest, to bring to human birth
the long-desired of all the earth.

O Lord, the Virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Venantius Fortunatus (530-600)
tr J M Neal (1818 – 1866)

SERMON

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Intercessions

*At the end of each bidding the following may be used: Lord in your mercy,
Please respond: **Hear our prayer***

At the end of the prayers we say the Lord's Prayer together.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

Parents: We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents: We do.

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on this child.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for his birth; surround him with your blessing that he may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.

May he learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time, come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May God the Father of all bless these parents and give them grace to love and care for their children. May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, help them to provide for their children's needs and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A copy of the Bible is presented:

Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love.

Take it as your guide.

The congregation is asked

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

With the help of God, we will.

God our Creator, we thank you for the gift of the children you have entrusted to our care. May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and to forgive, so that through our love they may come to know your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen, Blessed be God for ever.

The Blessing

Hymn:

Tell out my soul CP 362

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926)

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