

The Eucharist of The Nativity 2023



StMARYwithStALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. 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!*

2. God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest!'

3. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear; we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing

GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

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

All and also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All Thanks be to God

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace: to you be praise and glory for ever. The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

(We light the fifth candle, to mark the Birth of Christ)

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 shout:

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 shout:

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 shout:

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria (clap, clap) Gloria (clap, clap) In excelsis Deo

Gloria (clap, clap) Gloria (clap, clap) In excelsis Deo

Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us.

We worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.

Gloria ...

Jesus saviour of all, Lord God, lamb of God

You take away our sins Oh Lord, have mercy on us all.

Gloria ...

At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,

For you alone are the Holy one and you alone are the Lord.

Gloria ...

Glory Father and Son, glory Holy Spirit

To you we lift our hands up high, we glorify your name.

Gloria (clap, clap) Gloria (clap, clap) In excelsis Deo

Gloria (clap, clap) Gloria (clap, clap) In excelsis Deo

THE COLLECT *The Prayer for Christmas*

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.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE READING – *Titus 2.11-14, read by a member of the congregation*

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph; and
forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all
begin and never cease.'

THE GOSPEL READING – *Luke 2.1-14,15-20*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line

of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE TALK

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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

All **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?

All 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?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on his holy day your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all that are in pain or distress.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God **hear our prayer**

On his holy day strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

On his holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Father, on his holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Unto us a child 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

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN – *during this hymn a Collection will be taken*

1. 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.

2. 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 wond'ring love

3. 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.

4. 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!

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

All **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

All **He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your ✠ Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

All **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty:
who was, and is, and is to come;
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

**Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes,
blest is he comes in the Lord's name.
Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes,
blest is he comes in the Lord's name.
Hosanna in the heights of heav'n.
Blessèd, blessèd, blessèd is the Lord.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, and as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

At St Mary with St Alban, we welcome communicant members of all churches to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, you are invited to come forward to receive a personal blessing. If you come forward for a blessing, please bring this booklet with you to help us know your intention. Come one, come all!

COMMUNION HYMN

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, on this most holy day you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

SENDING OUT

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

1. 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 proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

2. 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.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

3. 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 we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

THE BLESSING

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, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**

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