

St. John's Carrington Eucharist on Christmas Morning



This morning we celebrate the wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity. Through word, praise and sacrament we tell of the wonderful story of the God incarnate in the manger.

Welcome on behalf of the community of St. John's Church

St. John's seeks to be an inclusive church community where all are welcomed and valued, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

Today, we re-gather for physical worship for those who are able and would like to. Be assured however, whether we are in church or remaining at home for now, as the Body of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are united in fellowship with one another and with the whole company of heaven.

As such, whether you are in church, reading this on your own or following along on the live-stream we are delighted to welcome you. To ensure we do all we can to keep everyone safe and healthy, we would ask you to read the notes overleaf.

*The service is led by The Revd James Pacey.
The Preacher is Denis Tully, Church Army Evangelist*

- In line with government guidelines, face masks will now be mandatory for those attending worship in St. John's.
- Please note this service will be live-streamed to our Facebook page.
- Please keep 2 metres apart at all times.
- Please do not to leave your seat unless there is an emergency.
- If there is an emergency leave via the nearer exit at front or back of church and gather in the churchyard. Please do not leave the churchyard without checking with a steward as we need to ensure the building is empty.
- Especially hard on Christmas Day, but we are unable to sing as a congregation this morning, so Susan and Shaun will be leading us in music on our behalf.

- A toilet is available. We would ask you to please use it before or after the service, rather than during.
- The President will bring communion to your seat. If you wish to receive, please stand up or remain seated if you would like to receive a blessing. Please don't feel under any pressure to receive the sacrament.
- If you suffer a bout of coughing or sneezing, to ensure healthy and safety we would ask you to please leave the building, keeping your distance from others and covering your face.
- If you need assistance for any reason raise your hand and a Steward will come to you.
- At the end of the service a Steward will tell you when it is safe for you to leave.
- Remember to take everything with you – including your pew sheet. Please take it home rather than leave it in the building.
- Please sanitise your hands as you leave.
- Please don't block the doorways as you leave - if you'd like to chat with people please move out into the churchyard – the president will be there chat (socially distanced of course!)

CAROL (*sung by a soloist*)

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:

*O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee!
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing

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

THE GATHERING AND WELCOME

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.

All **and also with you.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

All **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.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

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.

All **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Gloria 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 sins 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.**

Please remain standing as the priest introduces a period of silent prayer.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

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.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 9.2-7

² The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand for the Gospel.

All **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

I bring you news of great joy;

This day a Saviour has been to us, Jesus Christ the Lord!"

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you,

All **And also with you.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the

Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
All **Praise to you, O Christ, for this your holy Gospel.**

After a prayer we sit for the sermon.

THE SERMON

After the sermon we stand to declare the faith of the Church using the Creed.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

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.**

After, we kneel or sit for the prayers.

INTERCESSIONS

The following response may be used:

Christ, the light of the world,

All **Shine in our hearts.**

After the names of the departed have been read out:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
All **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The prayers may conclude with:

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We stand for the Peace.

THE PEACE

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

Isaiah 9.6

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We share a socially distanced sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY CAROL (sung by a soloist)

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 th'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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

We remain standing for the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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 indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and singing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
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.**

We sit or kneel.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's presence among us,
let us pray with confidence as He has taught us:

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.**

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.**

AGNUS DEI (sung by the soloist)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

In these exceptional times, we receive communion in one kind.

If you would like to receive the sacrament, please stand or hold your hand out if standing is difficult. If you would prefer a prayer of blessing, please indicate by keeping your hands lowered.

The liturgy for spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body with the wish
that they may always be united to you.
And since I can not now receive you in this sacrament,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live and die in your love. Amen.

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.

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.**

We stand for the Blessing and Dismissal.

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

All **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

FINAL CAROL (sung by the soloist)

1.
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.

2.
Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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.

A very Merry Christmas to you!



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