

Family Service with **Holy Communion**

Sunday 26th December, 10.30am



WELCOME

CAROL

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
The 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 swaddling 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 hence forth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION

We look to God for forgiveness, knowing that in this last year we have often
grieved him through our failures and sins:

Where we have not cared enough for you: **(ALL) forgive us, O God.**

Where we have not cared enough for your world: **(ALL) forgive us, O God.**

Where we have been content with ourselves as we are:

(ALL) forgive us, O God.

(ALL) Give us the will and the power to live in the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING: Colossians 3:12–17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

CAROL

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| <p>1 Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother;
in a stable born our brother,
whom the angel hosts adore:</p> <p>2 Jesus, cradled in a manger,
keep us free from sin and danger;
and to all, both friend and stranger,
give your blessing evermore.</p> | <p>3 Jesus, for your people dying,
risen master, death defying;
Lord of heaven your grace supplying,
come to us - be present here!</p> <p>4 Lord, in all our doings guide us:
pride and hate shall not divide us;
we'll go on with you beside us,
and with joy we'll persevere.</p> |
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GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:41-52 (*The Message Translation*)

Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbours. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt. His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you." He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" But they had no idea what he was talking about. So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

TALK: The Jesus Revolution

THE CREED (*from 2 Corinthians 1*)

All God's promises are 'yes' in Christ; through him we give glory to God and say, Amen:

It is Christ to whom we belong.

**It is the Father who assures us of our salvation
and anoints us for his service.**

It is the Spirit by whom we are sealed in love for evermore.

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

PRAYERS

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you **(ALL)** and also with you.

CAROL

1
What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him praise
the babe, the Son of Mary!

2
Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,
his love all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne, for me, for you:
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
the babe, the Son of Mary!

3
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come rich and poor, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let every heart enthrone him.
Raise, raise your song on high while Mary sings a lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

(... and so we join the angels to celebrate and say:)

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might
Your glory fills all heaven and earth. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Most High.
Hosanna in the highest.

(... great is the mystery of faith:)

Jesus Christ has died. Jesus Christ is risen. Jesus Christ will come again.

...

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.

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.

(Families who receive Holy Communion together can share a wafer with their children if they feel that is appropriate.)

(After Holy Communion we say this prayer together:)

**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.**

HYMN (To the tune of Auld Lang Syne)

1 Your grace will never be forgot
Your mercy all my life
Will be my soul's forever song
My story and my light

2 From mountaintop to valley low
Through laughter and through tears
Surely the goodness of my God
Will follow all the years

*For all that You have done for us
For every battle won
We'll raise a song to bless Your heart
For all that You have done*

3 In all our failures and regrets
You've always led us home
Redemption's arm has raised us up
Our triumph in the storm

For all that you have done...

4 In unity we'll stand as one
As family we'll go
Shoulder to shoulder hand in hand
Into the great unknown

For all that you have done...

BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **(ALL) In the name of Christ. Amen.**

May you know God's goodness and purposes in ...

