

The Eucharist on Christmas Day



Happy Christmas! Christmas is a celebration of the God who comes among us as the Word made flesh. Incarnation means that God has entered into all that it is to be human: our pain and our failure, as well as our joy and achievement. This service celebrates, and reflects on, Christ's coming as Servant-King to bring to all the world God's light, life and love.

Our desire is to make you feel at home, and part of the family here—so don't worry if anything seems strange; you are welcome, and amongst friends. Don't worry about tiny children making a noise. We are a family, and we understand!

Please feel free, when the time comes, to receive Holy Communion. If it is not your usual custom or practice, please come forward for a blessing.

Everyone is welcome at Great St. Mary's, a church which has been witnessing to Christian truth in the centre of Cambridge for over 800 years. We seek to be an inclusive, friendly church, with a large gathered congregation of all ages, great music and preaching, and a particular calling as the spiritual heart of the University of Cambridge.

A few reminders about COVID-safe worship:

- Face coverings (masks) must be worn at all times, including whilst singing.
- Please help maintain physical distancing between households, to protect the vulnerable in our community.
- You are invited to 'check in' with your NHS Test & Trace app, using this QR code:



These rules apply even if you have been vaccinated. Thank you!

www.greatstmarys.org
[@greatstmarys](https://www.instagram.com/greatstmarys)

The Gathering

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

OPENING CAROL

Please STAND, as you are able, as the ministers enter and we sing

**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;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him...**

John Francis Wade (1711-1786), trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Tune ADESTE FIDELES John Francis Wade

Descant David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE GREETING

The Reverend Canon Adrian Daffern, Vicar of the University Church, says

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

All **Amen.**

A holy day has dawned upon us!
Come and worship the Lord:

All **for a great light has shone on the earth.**

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

All **and also with you.**

The president welcomes everyone and introduces the service

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We SIT or KNEEL. The deacon, the Reverend Jon Sanders, says

As we kneel with the shepherds before the new-born Christ
child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

You, Lord, were born for our salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You came to bring light into the darkness of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says

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.**

Let us hear again the song of the angels:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Please STAND, as you are able, to sing this **CAROL**

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

James Montgomery (1771-1854)
tune IRIS, French traditional carol

THE COLLECT

The president says

Let us pray that our joy in the celebration of Christ's birth
may last for ever.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as 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 our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please SIT

The Liturgy of the Word

THE READING

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."

⁸ 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.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ 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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please STAND as you are able

Org. **All** Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Org. **f**

Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste

and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please SIT

THE SERMON

The Reverend David Bagnall, Curate

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please STAND

The president says

Let us bless the living God:

He was born of the Virgin Mary,

All **revealed in his glory,**

worshipped by the angels,

All **proclaimed among the nations,**

believed in throughout the world,
All **exalted to the highest heavens.**

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
All **now and for ever.**
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please SIT or KNEEL

A member of the congregation leads the prayers. The prayers end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

THE PEACE

Please STAND

The president says

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Please SIT

Please see the back page of this order of service to learn about our special offertory collection, "Love Came Down At Christmas"

The ministers set the table with the gifts, as the choir sings this [CAROL](#)

New Dawn Carol (first performance)– Selwyn D Image (1938-)

The stars shone bright on Christmas night,
on Christmas night, on Christmas night,
As shepherds visited the site
Where Jesus Christ was born.
New life and hope there came that night
And all no more forlorn:
A hope that God might intervene
And herald our new dawn.

The heav'nly choirs sang out that night,
That Christmas night, that Christmas night,
Rejoicing at this happy sight
With hymns and sweet refrain.
Three wise men came to reignite
That dream of peace again,
Gold's power joined with widow's mite
To forge a common chain.

This vision of a new shared might,
Embracing need with what is right,
Was manifest that Christmas night
When Jesus Christ was born.
And by the rays of this new light
The world might now discern
A bright new arc of love and peace:
A holy rainbow dawn.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The president prays

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

All **Amen.**

Please STAND

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff has the lyrics "The Lord___ is here. His spi - rit is with_ us." with a double bar line after "here." and a repeat sign after "us." The second staff has the lyrics "Lift_____ up your_ hearts___ We lift them to_ the Lord._" with a double bar line after "hearts___" and a repeat sign after "the Lord._". The third staff has the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise." with a double bar line after "praise." Each staff is preceded by the word "All" in a bold font.

All
The Lord___ is here. His spi - rit is with_ us.

All
Lift_____ up your_ hearts___ We lift them to_ the Lord._

All
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and the choir sings:

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra
Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Mass in F – Jacques-Nicholas Lemmens (1823-1881)

The president recalls the Last Supper, and deacon leads this acclamation:

I bring you good news of great joy,
a Saviour has been born to you: Alleluia.

All **Unto us a child is born, a son is given: Alleluia.**

The prayer concludes with these words

...for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We SIT or KNEEL for a time of silent prayer.

The president says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread for ever.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The president explains how communion will be distributed, before saying formal words of invitation. Please wait to follow the direction of the stewards in coming forward.

Please maintain a distance between yourself and other households, and please keep your face covering on until it is time to receive. Extend your arms all the way forward, and the president will give you communion. If you wish a blessing instead, please cross your arms in front of your chest.

This is God's table, and all are welcome.

The choir sings:

*Agnus Dei
qui tollis peccata mundi
Miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei
qui tollis peccata mundi
Miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei
qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us peace.

Mass in F – Jacques-Nicholas Lemmens

During communion the choir sings the following CAROLS

Torches! – John Joubert (1927-2019)

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, ro-ro, ro-ro, my baby
Ah, ro-ro, my love, ro-ro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling
While we sing you our Roro

Sing, my friends, and make you merry
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and evermore. Amen

tr. John Brande Trend (1887–1958)

Come all you worthy people here
That may be standing by;
Christ our blessed Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day.
The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did say:
 'O we wish you the comfort
 and tidings of joy!'

Christ our blessed Saviour
Now in the manger lay
He's lying in the manger
While the oxen feed on hay.
The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did say:
 'O we wish you the comfort
 and tidings of joy!'

God bless his servants in this place
That lovingly do meet;
And many happy Christmases
To strangers in the street.
God bless our generation,
Who live both far and near,
 And we wish them a happy,
 a happy New Year!

Traditional

God our Father,
on this 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.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

The deacon gives the dismissal

Go in peace! Proclaim the Word made flesh!

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

Please STAND as the ministers depart and we sing the final

CAROL

**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.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.*

Charles Wesley, tune MENDELSSOHN by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847),
descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

You are invited to give generously to today's retiring collection. To learn more about our special Christmas collection, please see the back page.

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Wider Concerns Christmas Envelope Collection

“Love came down at Christmas”

Following COP26, this year’s Christmas Envelope collection will support charities responding to the challenges of a changing climate:

Kids for Kids, Darfur is planting trees to hold back the desert which is expanding at a rate of three miles a year. Trees provide vital shade from the hot desert sun and fruit for hungry children in this very poor region.

Phoenix India is working with rural communities to help mitigate the devastating effects of crop failure through pioneering water drip feed systems in very dry areas, offering new hope, and tackling the issue of suicides amongst poor famers.

Please donate today, either using the special brown envelopes, or by giving online via the National Funding Scheme:

To donate £5, text XMAS21 to 70970

To donate £10, text XMAS21 to 70191



<http://easydonate.org/XMAS21>