



Great St Mary's

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE

# THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS



11.30PM

24 DECEMBER 2021

## A few reminders about -Covid-safe worship:

- *Face coverings (masks) must be worn at all times by all able to do so, even whilst singing.*
- *We ask that you help maintain physical distancing between households, to protect the vulnerable in our community.*
- *Please use your NHS Covid-19 App to check in, using the QR code on this page.*



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

**H**appy 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.

**O**ur 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!

**P**lease 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.

**E**veryone 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.

*The image on the front cover is a detail from the east window (above and behind the high altar), designed and made by firm of John Hardman in 1869. It shows the angels telling the good news of Jesus's birth to the shepherds. The curved banner in the centre shows the words of the angels 'Glory to God in the highest heaven'. The text along the bottom is the final section of a verse which runs across the entire base of the window: 'Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a Son, and shalt call his name Jesus' (Luke 1:31)*

# The First Eucharist of Christmas

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

## THE GATHERING

*A voice cries*

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.

Richard Crashaw (1614-1649)

*Please STAND to sing the opening*

CAROL

**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!*

<b>God of God, Light of light, Io, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, begotten, not created: <i>O come let us adore him...</i></b>	<b>Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; glory to God in the highest: <i>O come let us adore him...</i></b>
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John Francis Wade (1711-1786), trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)  
Tune ADESTE FIDELES John Francis Wade  
Descant David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*The Vicar, The Reverend Canon Adrian Daffern, says*

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

*All* **Amen.**

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The president invites everyone to SIT and introduces the service*

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The liturgical deacon, Edward Cearns, says*

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.

*Silence is kept*

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.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, 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.**

*The president says*

Let us hear again the song of the angels:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Please STAND as the choir sings*

## GLORIA

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,  
We give thanks to Thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten son, Jesu Christ.  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord;  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Service in E – Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

## THE COLLECT

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

*Silence is kept*

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please SIT

READING

*Hebrews 1.1–12*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?

Or again,

'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
'Let all God's angels worship him.'

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.'

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

<sup>10</sup> And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please STAND

## THE GOSPEL

John 1.1–14

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.

The musical score consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Organ (Org.) and the Cantor. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The organ part starts with a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) and then plays a melodic line of eighth notes: F#4, A4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The cantors sing the lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.' The second staff is for the Organ (Org.) and the Cantor. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The organ part starts with a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) and then plays a melodic line of eighth notes: F#4, A4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The cantors sing the lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.'

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

Org. **f**

Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

The musical score consists of one staff for the Organ (Org.). It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The organ part starts with a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) and then plays a melodic line of eighth notes: F#4, A4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Glo-ry to you, O Lord.' are written below the staff.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*Everyone sings*

**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...***

*Please SIT*

## THE SERMON

*The Reverend Shirley Holder, Senior Curate*

## THE NICENE CREED

*Please STAND*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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

*Please* **STAND**

THE PEACE

*The president says*

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.**

CAROL

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Josef Mohr (1792-1848), tune STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

*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.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Please* **REMAIN STANDING**



The Lord is here. **His spi - rit 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.**

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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Service in E – Harold Darke*

*The president recalls the Last Supper, and the deacon leads us in 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 continues, ending*



*We SIT or KNEEL for a time of silent prayer*

## THE LORD'S 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.*

*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.*

*During communion the choir sings*

### AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

*Service in E – Harold Darke*

### CHOIR CAROL

*Lalulaby – May Sabeston (1910-1983)*

Sweet was the song the virgin sang,  
When she to Bethlem Juda came  
And was delivered of a son,  
That blessed Jesus hath to name:

Sweet babe', sang she, 'my son,  
And eke a saviour born,  
Who hast vouchsafed from on high  
To visit us that were forlorn:

*'Lulla, lulla, lullaby,*

*'Lalula, lulla, lullaby,*

Sweet babe,' sang she,  
And rocked him sweetly  
On her knee.

*William Ballet, 17<sup>th</sup> century*

## CHOIR CAROL

*In the bleak midwinter* – Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him,  
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father,  
on this holy morn 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

*Please STAND to sing the*

CLOSING CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?**

**When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and men with joy may sing  
All for to see the new-born King.**

**All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore, Amen!"**

Traditional British Carol, taken down by Cecil Sharp (1859-1924)  
and Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) at Monk's Gate, West Sussex

## THE BLESSING

*The president gives the blessing, after which the deacon says*

## THE DISMISSAL

**Go in peace! Proclaim the Word made flesh!**

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

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Toccata en Ré Majeur pour Grand-Orgue – Marcel Lanquetuit (1894-1985)*

*Please remain **STANDING** until the procession of ministers has reached the back of the church, after which you are invited to **SIT** for the Organ Voluntary. A retiring collection will be taken as you exit the church. We receive no government funding and are grateful for your generosity.*

## 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>**



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