



Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield
Loved as you are



Midnight Mass 2021

*All are welcome to St Margaret's and we encourage all to take part fully in this service. If you have **mobility issues** that make it difficult for you to come and receive communion or laying-on-of-hands for healing, should you want to, then do please notify our sides-people, and we will come to you.*

Due to the Coronavirus please wear your face mask throughout the service to ensure the safety of everyone here this evening

THE GATHERING

As we gather together

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, *Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750*
Praise be to you, Jesus Christ

We stand at the entrance of the clergy

Improvisation on 'The First Nowell.' *Stephen C Horsman b. 1961*

Opening Hymn

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare his room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns.
Let us our songs employ.
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
The wonders of his love,
The wonders of his love,
The wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

THE GREETING

Celebrant The Lord be with you
All and also with you

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CROWN

The Advent Crown is a symbol of the light of Christ coming into the world and into the darkness of our lives. As the Advent Crown is lit, we sing



Christ is a - mong us. The can - dles in the ring re -
5
minds us that our Sav - iour will light up e - v'ry thing. 5. At
9
last we light the can - dle kept new for Christ - mas day, this
13
shines bright for Je - sus, new - born, and here to stay.

Let us pray

Holy God you left the glory of heaven to take upon yourself our fragile humanity. You came to us in love and yet we denied you room and you were laid in a manger. We have lit candles of hope, peace, love and joy, may these virtues shine brightly in our lives as we welcome you into our hearts this Christmas. Amen.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All 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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Celebrant Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

All Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

Celebrant May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

All

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains four measures of music with lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The second staff, starting with a measure rest of 5, contains four measures of music with lyrics: 'Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

Cantor Glory 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. *R*

Cantor Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *R*

Cantor 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. *R*

THE COLLECT

Celebrant Let us pray. 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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel:

Gospel Procession: Venite Adoremus, Chorale

The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in
human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night 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

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand ...and all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the
darkness.
Bring comfort to ...and all who suffer in the sadness of our
world.
Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in ...and in all the world.

Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand ...and all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All Hear our prayer

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

All Hear our prayer

Father, in this holy night 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.

All Amen.

and at the end of the prayers

Merciful father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We stand to share the peace:

The Peace

Celebrant 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace by looking at those around you and greeting them with a warm smile.

As the Body of Christ receives its life from God, and offers its life to God, so we, as members of that Body, greet each other in love.

The Preparation of the Table

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Angels we have heard in heaven,
Sweetly singing o'er our plains,
And the mountain tops in answer
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this exultation?
Why your rapturous strain prolong?
Tell us of the gladsome tidings
Which inspire your joyous song.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see him
O'er whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore, devoutly kneeling,
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger lying
Whom the choir of angels praise!
Mary, Joseph, come to aid us
While our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

James Chadwick 1813-1882

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer which the earth has given and human hands have made. They will become for us the bread of life and cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have ourselves to offer, fruit of the womb and formed through your love. We will become the people of God.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
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.

Celebrant All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself and in this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and singing

All

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly_ Lord God of pow'r and might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly_ Lord God of pow'r and might. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly_ Lord God of pow'r and might.'

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Celebrant Jesus Christ is Lord:

All

Lord, by your cross and re - sur - rec - tion you have set us free.

5
You are the Sav - iour, you are the Sav - iour of the world.

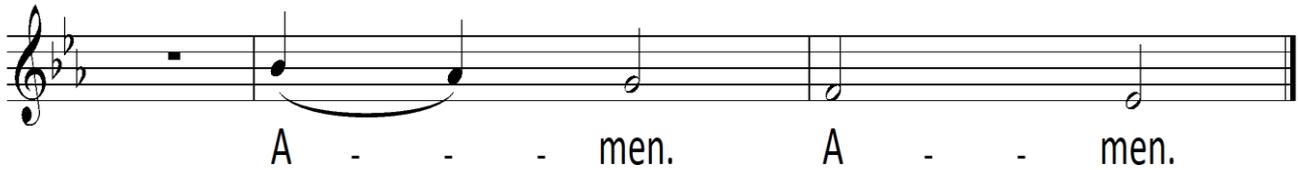
The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Margaret, St Richard and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord: by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be.

All



THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread

Celebrant 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.

All

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

Celebrant Draw near with faith. Receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his Blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople who will guide you to receive your Communion.

*The sacrament will be administered to the congregation in both kinds but by intinction. As the priest offers you the host with the words **'The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ'** please respond: **Amen.***

During the distribution of Communion

Dessiens Éternels from La Nativité du Seigneur,

Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992

Reflection

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall,
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you!**

Polish Carol tr. Edith M.G. Reed. 1885-1933

THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray. God our Father, in this night 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 forever.

All **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.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wisemen, 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

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,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear.
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh.
We to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:

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

**Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain, we embrace thee, with awe and love.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!***

**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!***

**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!***

18th cent. Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80)

THE DISMISSAL

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love, and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

The Clergy will recess to the postlude

Fantasia on Christmas Carols *Stephen C Horsman b.1961*

Today we celebrate the birth of Christ, our Saviour. We have been on a journey through Advent which culminates in this day. This fantasia traces that journey using Advent and Christmas Carol motifs.

Thank you for joining in our worship tonight.

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We wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year