



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



**Christmas Day 2022**  
**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**

*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 should you want to, then do please notify our sides-people, and we will come to you.*

***Due to the Coronavirus please make your responses in a quiet voice in order to minimise the risk of infection***

**As we gather together**

**Pastoral Symphony from Messiah**  
*George Frederick Handel 1685-1759*

*We stand at the entrance of the clergy*

**Processional Hymn**

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he  
(For mighty dread had seized their troubled mind),  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.**

**To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign:**

**The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid'.**

**Thus, spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace,  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease'.**

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: Este's Psalter, 1592 arr: David Willcocks 1919-2015*

## **THE GREETING**

The Lord be with you  
**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.*

Joy to the world!  
**The Lord has come!**

*The central candle is lit and this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.  
**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing*

**Advent candles tell their story on this Christmas Day.  
Those who waited for God's glory: they prepared the way.  
Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living, here today!**

*Words: Mark Earey b. 1965 Music: Edwin George Monk 1819-1900*

## OPENING PRAYER

**Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving, joy-giving, peace-giving presence, that we may praise you now with our lips and all day long with our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SAYING SORRY TO GOD

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.

**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.

**Christ, have mercy.**

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

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to  
himself, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the word  
made flesh, and be cleansed from all our sins, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA**

**Glory be to God on high!  
All heav'n with praise is ringing.  
Angels fill the Christmas sky,  
And 'peace to earth' are singing.  
GLORIA .....!  
Hosanna in excelsis!**

**Christ, our rescuer from sin  
and from eternal danger,  
our salvation comes to win  
and lies in Bethlem's manger**

**GLORIA.....!**  
**Hosanna in excelsis!**

**Praise you, God of Heaven above!**  
**You've shared our human story.**  
**To you, Trinity of love,**  
**We sing our song of 'Glory'**  
**GLORIA.....!**  
**Hosanna in excelsis!**

*Words: Fr Russel Stagg, Music: Jehan Tabourot, pen name: Thoinot  
Arbeau 1520-1595 from his Orchésographe 1589*

### **THE SPECIAL PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit for the readings.*

#### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Second Reading**

*Titus 2:11-14*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the Gospel*

***The Gospel Reading***

*Luke 2:1-20*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing until the Sermon is introduced*

**The Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith**

We stand to say the really important things about what we believe:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life  
the one for whom we exist?

**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?

**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?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

**This is our faith.**

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

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are  
homeless.

Jesus Saviour,

**Hear our prayer**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the  
kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus Saviour,

**Hear our prayer**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth  
to all who are oppressed.

Jesus Saviour,

**Hear our prayer**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and  
wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus Saviour,

**Hear our prayer**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory  
of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus Saviour,

**Hear our prayer**

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us,  
you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you  
forever. Amen.**

*and at the end of the prayers*

**Merciful Father,  
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**

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.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*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**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

*Words: Anonymous, Music Traditional Normandy arr. Reginald Jacques 1894-1969*

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.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **REMEMBERING AND THANKING GOD FOR ALL HIS BLESSINGS**

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

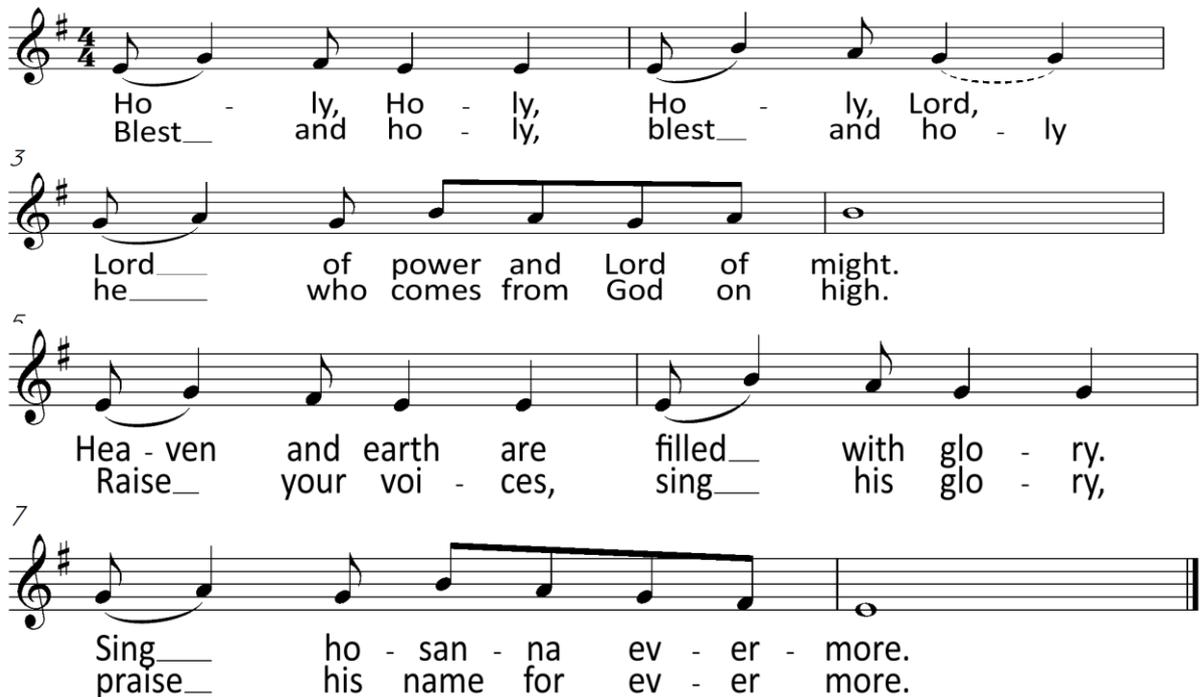
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times  
and things to celebrate.  
In these we taste your kingdom,  
a feast for all your children.

You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and sing your praise:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord,  
Blest and ho - ly, blest and ho - ly

3  
Lord of power and Lord of might.  
he who comes from God on high.

5  
Hea - ven and earth are filled with glo - ry.  
Raise your voi - ces, sing his glo - ry,

7  
Sing ho - san - na ev - er - more.  
praise his name for ev - er more.

We thank you, loving Father, because,  
when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's Body and his Blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St Margaret and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER



Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for-give us our tres-pas

20

ses as we for-give those who tres-pass against us and lead us not

27

in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from all that is e - vil.

33

For the King - dom, the power and the glo - ry

37

are yours now and for e - ver, a - men.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

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

4

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

Come, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you any right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little, and would like to love him more.

Come, because he loves you and gave himself for you.

*The sacrament will be administered to the congregation in both kinds.*

*As the priest offers you the host with the words 'The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ' please respond: **Amen**. As you are offered the chalice please remember you wont be permitted to handle the sides of the chalice only the base. When you are offered the chalice to take a sip with the words **The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ** please respond **Amen**. You will not be permitted to 'dip' the host into the chalice and must consume the host before receiving wine from the chalice. There is no need now to return to your seat with the host in your hands.*

## **During the distribution of Communion**

Dessiens Éternels from La Nativité du Seigneur,  
*Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992*

## **Reflection**

**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 the birth.**

*Words: Joseph Mohr 1792-1848 tr: Joseph F Young 1820-1885  
Music: Franz Gruber 1787-1863*

### **THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

**Lord, we have broken your bread and received your life. By the power of your Spirit keep us always in your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen**

### **NOTICES**

### **THE BLESSING**

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.**

## 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.  
**In the name of Christ.**

### Recessional Hymn

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King,  
Let every heart prepare him 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 flocks, 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 glory of his righteousness,  
The wonders of his love, the wonders of his love,  
The wonders, the wonders of his love.**

*Words: based on Ps 98 Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

*Music: George Frederick Handel 1685-1759*

### *The postlude*

### Fantasia on Christmas Carols

*Stephen C Horsman b.1962*

*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.*

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*The Sanctus is adapted from a traditional Israeli Melody by Anthony Hansen, the Our Father is by Julian Weiner b.1965 ©1984 Kevin Mayhew Ltd The Agnus Dei is from the Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes ©Jean Paul Lécot & Lucien Deiss 1980*

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