

24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Rev Rob Powell will be leading, presiding and preaching on 'Christ is Born'

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

#### THE FIRST NOEL THE ANGELS DID SAY

Was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay:

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a King was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven

and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

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### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**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

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.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our  
unworthiness to stand in your presence as  
your children. We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be  
the mother of Jesus. Forgive our  
disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

Your son our Saviour was born in poverty in  
a manger. Forgive our greed and  
rejection of your ways. We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

**Amen.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

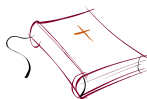
May the God of all healing and forgiveness, draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **TIME IN THE WORD**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **SERMON**

## **THE PEACE**

### **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.

Franz Xaver Gruber, Joseph Mohr, and John Freeman Young

## **THE COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,  
Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth  
you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your  
delight. Though we chose the path of  
rebellion you would not abandon your  
own. Again and again you drew us into  
your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught  
us by your prophets to look for your reign  
of justice, mercy and peace.  
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom  
on earth, we echo the song of the angels  
in heaven, evermore praising you and  
saying:

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

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin, that  
we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

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.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## **WORDS OF INVITATION**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**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.**



### **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;

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing, in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:

18<sup>th</sup> C. TR. F. Oakley, W.T. Brooke & others Public Domain

## **NOTICES**

## **FINAL PRAYER & BLESSING**

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