



22nd December 2024

Holy Communion Service

Rev Rob Powell will be leading, presiding and preaching on
'Mary Visits Elizabeth' (Luke 1: 39-56)

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

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

*Come and worship
Christ the newborn King
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant-light

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One

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GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn



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.

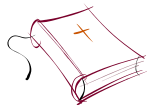
Amen

TIME IN THE WORD

Bible Reading: Luke 1: 39-56

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



SERMON



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,*

*Here I am to say that You're my God;
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

(Repeat)

Tim Hughes © 2000 Kingsway's Thankyou Music©

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

We give you all the glory....

For you alone are worthy....

O come let us adore him....



PRAYERS

THE PEACE *(we share the sign of the peace)*

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.

It is right to praise you, Father,
Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you; do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of
him: his body, is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of
wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the
new covenant, which is shed for you for
the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of
him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate
his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that
this bread and this wine may be to us the
body and blood of your dear Son.
**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the
world we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song
of heaven:

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



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

**Father of all, we give you thanks and
praise, that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love, gave us grace
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life; we who drink his cup
bring life to others; we whom the Spirit
lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set
before us, so we and all your children
shall be free, and the whole earth live
to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NOTICES



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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

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

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

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen 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.
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OFFERTORY PRAYER & BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

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