



**THE PARISH EUCHARIST
FOR
CHRISTMAS MORNING
2020**

Welcome to St John's for worship today.

Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, or you are joining us virtually, you are most welcome!

If you are joining us virtually you might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of Christ shining among us.

The posture directions in this Order of Service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support for the mission and ministry of this Parish. If your financial offering is physical please place it in the plate on your way into church. If you give via Direct Debit or the Parish Giving Scheme - thank you. A Contactless Payment a machine is available near the entrance or you can give by text: PLATE 5 or PLATE 10 to 70085

or via our website: www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/donate

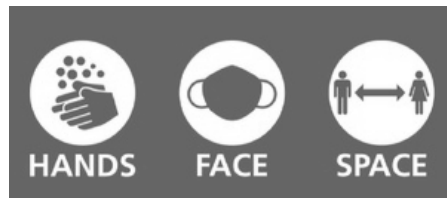
Our Christmas Charities this year are: DENS, The Hospice of St Francis, and the work of this Parish. If you are able to GiftAid your donation our Christmas Charities will receive 25% extra from the Tax office.

In faith and confidence we come before the God of love in assurance of his forgiveness and ask for his blessing on our lives. We give thanks especially for the birth of the Christ child in whom God was incarnate and lived among us. We rejoice in the Prince of Peace and pray that his light, love, and life may be present with us this day and throughout the world.

Covid Secure measures

We are doing everything we can to keep you safe during these times. Please follow the direction of our stewards, use sanitiser on entry and exit, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing.

In line with regulations congregational singing indoors is prohibited. Our carols are recordings for us to enjoy.



Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishops' Council 2000.
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We wish you all a very happy, safe, and Holy Christmas.

A retiring Collection is taken for the work of:

DENS

The Hospice of St Francis

The Church in this Parish

Please take this Order of Service home .

Our worship has ended; let our service begin.

Thanks be to God!

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All stand for

The Final Carol: Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing	Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Glory to the new-born King;	Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,	Late in time behold him come
God and sinners reconciled:	Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Joyful all ye nations rise,	Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Join the triumph of the skies,	Hail th' incarnate Deity!
With th'angelic host proclaim	Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.	Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.*

Hail the heav'n-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.

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.*

Mendelssohn 35 AMNS

The Dismissal

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

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the ministers enter.

The president gives

The Greeting

We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy.

A Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,

Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Please sit for

The Notices and The Blessing of the Crib

On this most holy day,
as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib,
and that all who worship his Son, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Carol: O Come all ye faithful

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, ...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God In the highest:
O come, ...

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, ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, ...

Adeste Fideles 34 AMNS

The Lighting of the Wreath

People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Angels dance and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God.

Let us pray:

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through him who is the light shining in the world,
the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

All remain seated whilst a recording is played of our choir singing

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.**

All are welcome to receive Communion as directed by the Stewards. Please leave your face covering on, receive the Sacrament in your hands, and then take it back to your place where it is to be consumed. Covid restrictions mean it is only possible to receive in one kind but regardless you will receive the full efficacy of the Sacrament. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

If you do not usually receive Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive a Blessing. To indicate this, please bring this booklet with you.

The following is played whilst Communion is administered:

Calypso Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw:
A draughty stable with an open door.
Mary cradling the babe she bore:
The Prince of Glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of Love again:
Just as poor as was
the stable then,
The Prince of Glory
when he came!*

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
Be the saviour of us all.

O now carry me ...

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the saviour of the world!

O now carry me ...

Mine are riches, from your poverty;
From your innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me ...

Calypso Carol 82 AM

All remain seated to say

The 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.**

All sit to say

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour has taught us, so we are bold to 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.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

or:

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 Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Body of Christ.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph :
"You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins".
Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All stand to say the Song of the Angels in praise of the birth of Jesus

The Gloria

**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.
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.
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.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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 for ever
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isaiah 9: 2–7

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

Titus 2: 11–14

Thanks be to God.

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**



The Eucharistic 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.

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,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In the 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 sing our joyful hymn of praise:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may to be us his body and his blood;
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.

Carol: Away in a manger

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 forever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
to live with thee there.

Cradle Song 60 AM

All stand for

The Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

St Luke 2: 1–20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

All stand to profess our faith in the Living God.

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

All sit for

The Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy *or* Lord, hear us
hear our prayer. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand for

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.

and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace, with a friendly wave.

All remain standing for

The Offertory Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

during which the Altar table is prepared for Communion.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Forest Green 40 AMNS

All remain standing for

The Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

