



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield



**THE PARISH EUCHARIST
FOR
CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT**

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 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

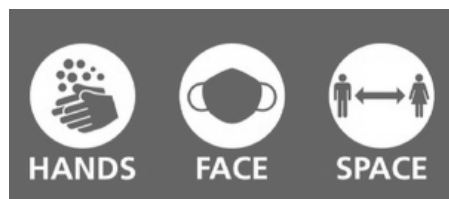
Our Christmas Charities this year are: DENS, The Hospice of St Francis, and the work of this Parish. If you are able to GiftAid your donation our Christmas Charities will receive 25% extra from the Tax office.

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 this service is sung by members of the Parish Choir. The Mass Setting is by David Thorne.



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 standing 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 night,
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 27 BCB

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.**

A recording of the following anthem may be played.

Anthem: O Holy Night

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; behold, behold your King.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Adolphe Adam (1803-56)

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 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 choir sings the following whilst Communion is administered.

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak mid-winter	Enough for him whom cherubim
Frosty wind made moan,	Worship night and day,
Earth stood hard as iron,	A breastful of milk
Water like a stone;	And a mangerful of hay:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,	Enough from him, whom angels
Snow on snow,	Fall down before,
In the bleak mid-winter,	The ox and ass and camel
Long ago.	Which adore.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him	Angels and archangels
Nor earth sustain;	May have gathered there,
Heav'n and earth shall flee away	Cherubim and seraphim
When he comes to reign.	Thronged the air;
In the bleak mid-winter	But only his mother
A stable place sufficed	In her maiden bliss
The Lord God almighty,	Worshipped the beloved
Jesus Christ.	With a kiss.

What can I give him,
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man
 I would do my part,
 Yet what I can I give him:
 Give my heart.

Crabham 17 BCB

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 as the choir sings the Song of the Angels in praise of the birth of Jesus

The Gloria

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
 Glory to God in the highest. (* Repeated as a refrain)**
**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. ***

The Collect

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 for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bible Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52: 7–10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1: 1–4

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

The choir sings

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.

The Body of Christ.

Amen.

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.

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.**



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 John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

St John 1: 1-14

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 Hymn

during which the Altar table is prepared for Communion.

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.



Divinum mysterium 30 BCB

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.

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;