

Opening Hymn: Ding dong! Merrily on high

Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve-time song, ye singers.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

10 BCB

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians.

when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Galatians 4: 4-7

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

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 on the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin, and never cease.'

47 BCB

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.

Alleluia.

Galatians 4: 4–5

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Luke 2: 15–21

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed:

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.

Offertory Hymn: A great and mighty wonder

A great and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure!

The Virgin bears the Infant,

With virgin honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!

'To God on high be glory,

And peace on earth to men!'

The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high!

And cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

Since all he comes to ransom,

By all be he adored,

The Infant born in Beth'lem

The Saviour and the Lord.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

While thus they sing your monarch,

Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,

Ye oceans clap your hands.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

And idol forms shall perish,

And error shall decay,

And Christ shall wield his sceptre,

Our Lord and God for ay.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

The Anthem: Susanni

A little child there is yborn,
Eia, eia, susanni.
And he sprang out of Jesse's thorn,
Alleluya, alleluya.
To save all us that were forlorn.

Now Jesus is the childes name,
Eia, eia, susanni.
And Mary mild she is his dame,
Alleluya, alleluya.
And so our sorrow's turned to game.

It fell upon the high midnight.
Eia, eia, susanni.
The stars they shone both fair and bright.
Alleluya, alleluya.
The angels sang with all their might.

Three Kings there came with their presents,
Eia, eia, susanni.
Of gold and myrrh and frankincense,
Alleluya, alleluya.
As clerkès sing in their sequence.

Now sit we down upon our knee,
Eia, eia, susanni.
And pray we to the Trinity,
Alleluya, alleluya.
Our help and succour for to be.

*Richard Bennett (b 1936)
14th century*

Communion Hymn: See amid the winter snow

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promis'd from eternal years:
*Hail, thou ever blessed morn;
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

'As we watch'd at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing "Peace on earth"
Told us of the Saviour's birth:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Sunday 1 January 2023
Hymns, Readings, and Collect

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
First Sunday of Christmas

Final Hymn: At the name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with the Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Evelyns 338 NEH