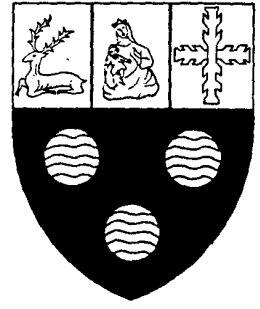


**Southwell
Minster**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



FESTAL MATTINS

followed by Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December 2024

11.15am

Welcome to Southwell Minster



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray in silence. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.



A loop system is in operation throughout the Minster. Hearing aids that are equipped to do so should be switched to the 'T' position or the loop setting appropriate to your equipment.



Large print orders of service are available. Please ask a Churchwarden, Sidesperson or Verger for a copy.



Toilet facilities (including disabled access) are situated in the Archbishop's Palace, opposite the South Door of the Minster.



We are a Fairtrade cathedral, committed to continuing and increasing our use of fairly traded goods wherever possible.



This Order of Service is printed on sustainably produced paper.

The congregation is invited to join in all texts printed in **bold**.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.

The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

Collection

Support the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral. A collection for the Cathedral's mission and ministry will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes provided – this allows us to increase your donation by 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. Card donations can be made at the contactless stations located near the main exits. You can also donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.southwellminster.org/donate. Thank you for your generous support of the Cathedral and its ongoing work.



Welcome!

Welcome to Southwell Minster Cathedral this Christmas! We are delighted that you have come to share the joy and excitement of this wonderful season with us. At the heart of the Christmas story, we hear anew of the incredible love of our God who sends his Son to be one with us as the babe of Bethlehem.

We live in a world broken and torn apart in so many ways, yet we are reminded in the Christmas story of the hope we are offered by God reaching out to each one of us in love.

Our Christian faith is built around relationships; God's relationship with us and our relationships, one with another. There are many ways in which our Minster community shares in those relationships. If you would like to know more, please do contact us at office@southwellminster.org.uk or for more information please see our website www.southwellminster.org.

Amongst the many events and services coming in the New Year, you may like to join us as we mark the next part of the Christmas story, remembering the visit of the Wise Men on **Sunday 12 January at 3.30pm** with our **Epiphany Procession**.

Finally, if this event has touched you, and you would like to know more about the Christian faith, seeking to follow Jesus, you will see on page iv details of an introduction course to Christian Faith led by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham and members of the Minster Team.

With all good wishes for a very happy Christmas and Blessed New Year.

The Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans

Interim Dean of Southwell

The Service of Mattins

Since very early times, a service of Morning Prayer (Mattins) has been part of the daily round of prayer offered by Christians, with the singing or saying of psalms, and the reading of Scripture. It is celebrated every day in this cathedral, whether by a small group of people early in the morning, or by a larger congregation with a choir, as today. Morning Prayer, together with Evensong (Evening Prayer) and Holy Communion, together act as the heartbeat of this cathedral church, a rhythm of praise and prayer.

Many of the words of Morning and Evening Prayer are unchanging day by day. They act as a testament to God's faithfulness through the ordinary processes of life, in good times and in bad. Saying and singing them together on a great feast day such as Christmas reminds us that the good news of God's love is as true on the rainiest of Mondays as it is on Christmas morning.

Exploring Faith

Hosted by Bishop Paul and Sarah Williams with Southwell Minster

These evenings offer the opportunity to explore how faith in Jesus can bring new peace and hope in our lives and the world today.

Exploring Faith begins on Wednesday 26 February for an introductory evening for those curious to know more. Then every Wednesday from 12 March until 9 April.

Starts at 6.30pm with a simple supper at Bishop's Manor, Southwell followed by a short talk, conversation and finish by 9pm.

All are welcome – to find out more or book your place please contact bishopsmanor@southwell.anglican.org or phone 01636 817990.

ORDER OF SERVICE

for

FESTAL MATTINS

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Noël (from Esquisses byzantines)

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

Before the service, the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans, Interim Dean of Southwell, welcomes the congregation and gives notices.

INTROIT *sung by the choir in the Crossing*

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And 'io io io' by priest and people sungen.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1838-1934)

*Music: French traditional
arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *during which the choir and clergy enter the Quire*



Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th' angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace upon earth, and unto men goodwill.

To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
Joyful, the wondrous story they proclaim--
The first apostles of his infant fame.

**Like Mary let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;
Then may we hope, angelic thrones among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.**

Words: John Byrom (1691-1763)

*Tune: YORKSHIRE NEH 24
J. Wainwright (1723-68)*

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 10-11

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

Please sit or kneel

GENERAL CONFESSION

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us:
but thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults,
restore thou them that are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who desireth not the death of a sinner,
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live;
and hath given power and commandment to his ministers,
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,
the absolution and remission of their sins:
he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent
and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.
Wherefore let us beseech him
to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,
that those things may please him which we do at this present,
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

PRECES sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir

O Lord, open thou our lips:
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO *sung by the choir*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God:
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth:
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it:
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship, and fall down:
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God:
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Words: Psalm 95: 1-7

Chant: George Macfarren (1813-87)

Please sit

The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof:
yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.
Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his seat.
There shall go a fire before him:
and burn up his enemies on every side.
His lightnings gave shine unto the world:
the earth saw it, and was afraid.
The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
The heavens have declared his righteousness:
and all the people have seen his glory.
Confounded be all they that worship carved images, and that delight in
vain gods:
worship him, all ye gods.
Sion heard of it, and rejoiced:
and the daughters of Judah were glad, because of thy judgements,
O Lord.
For thou, Lord, art higher than all that are in the earth:
thou art exalted far above all gods.
O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil:
the Lord preserveth the souls of his saints; he shall deliver them from
the hand of the ungodly.
There is sprung up a light for the righteous:
and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted.
Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous:
and give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

*Chant: Robert Ashfield (1911-2006)
Rector Chori of Southwell Minster, 1946-56*

Please sit

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have laboured;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.'
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord';
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.'

Please stand

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS *sung by the choir*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
The Father of an infinite majesty;
Thine honourable, true and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
Whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
And we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Words: Latin hymn, 4th century

*Music: MORNING SERVICE IN A
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

Please sit

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.

Please stand

JUBILATE DEO *sung by the choir*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with
a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts
with praise:

be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Words: Psalm 100

*Music: MORNING SERVICE IN A
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

Please turn east (towards the High Altar)

CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.**

He descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Please turn back

LESSER LITANY, LORD'S PRAYER AND RESPONSES
sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us:
Christ, have mercy upon us:
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us;
and let us not be led into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King:
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness:
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people:
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord:
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us:
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, being regenerate
and made thy children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life,
whose service is perfect freedom:
Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies;
that we, surely trusting in thy defence,
may not fear the power of any adversaries;
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR GRACE

O Lord our heavenly Father,
Almighty and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day:
Defend us in the same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger;
but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance,
to do always that is righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Please sit

ANTHEM *sung by the choir*

Procedenti puero –
Eya, nobis annus est! –
Virginis ex utero.
*Gloria! Laudes! Deus homo
Factus est et immortalis.*

*With the birth of the Child,
From the womb of a virgin,
Behold, it is a new year!
Glory and praise! Immortal God
Has become also mortal man.*

Sine viri semine –
Eya, nobis annus est! –
Natus est de virgine.
Gloria! Laudes!...

*Without the seed of man,
He is born of a virgin.
Behold, it is a new year!
Glory and praise!...*

Sine viri copia –
Eya, nobis annus est! –
Natus est ex Maria.
Gloria! Laudes!...

*Without the means of man,
He is born of Mary.
Behold, it is a new year!
Glory and praise!...*

In hoc festo determino –
Eya, nobis annus est! –
Benedicamus Domino!
Gloria! Laudes!...

*On this festal day, I conclude:
Let us bless the Lord!
Behold, it is a new year!
Glory and praise!...*

Words: Anonymous, 15th century

*Music: BENEDICAMUS DOMINO
Peter Warlock (1894-1930)*

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.**

**And we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness
and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost
be all honour and glory,
world without end.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by the Revd Erika Kirk, Priest Vicar*

The following response is used:

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

THE GRACE

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN *during which a collection is taken for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral and the table is prepared for Communion*



**1. See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the Lamb of God appears,
Promised from eternal years!
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!***

**2. Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!...***

**4. 'As we watched 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-blessèd morn!...***

**3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!...***

**5. Sacred infant, all divine,
What a mighty love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!...***

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Tune: HUMILITY (OXFORD) CP 67
John Goss (1800-80)
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

SERMON *given by the Dean*

HYMN



Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

Words: Latin, 15th century
trans. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Tune: PUER NOBIS CC1 43
from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

BLESSING

Dean Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL *sung by the Canon Precentor and the choir*

The Lord be with you:
And with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *during which the clergy and choir depart*

Quand Jésus naquit à Noël

Claude Balbastre (1724-99)

Once the clergy and choir have departed, the congregation is invited to sit to listen quietly to the organ voluntary. If you wish to leave at this point, please do so without disturbing those who may still wish to listen or pray.

All are invited to remain in the Quire for a shortened service of Holy Communion overleaf, led by the Dean, which follows straight after this service.

The weekly notice sheet for the Minster, Pew News, is available on the Minster website at www.southwellminster.org/worship/pew-news/

ORDER OF SERVICE
for
HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as the Altar Party enters the Quire

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith
unto all that truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11: 28

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

John 3: 16

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1: 15

Hear also what Saint John saith:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
and he is the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 2: 1-2

PREFACE

The Lord be with you:
and with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts:
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times, and in all places,
give thanks unto thee,
O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.
Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son
to be born as at this time for us;
who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost,
was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother;
and that without spot of sin,
to make us clean from all sin.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please sit or kneel

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.
But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption;
who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered)
a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction,
for the sins of the whole world;
and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue,
a perpetual memory of that his precious death,
until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee;
and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine,
according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;
and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the cup;
and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
Drink ye all of this;
for this is my blood of the new testament,
which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins:
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.
Amen.

All baptised, communicant members of Christian churches are invited to receive Communion. Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds (bread and wine) but please feel free to leave the altar rail after receiving the bread if you prefer. (The Church teaches that Holy Communion is received fully in either the consecrated wafer or the wine.) Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine) as this carries an increased risk of transmitting infection. The ministrant will not offer you the chalice to intinct, but only to drink from.

Please follow the instructions of Churchwardens to approach to receive Communion.

Gluten-free wafers are available on request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing (without physical contact), please bring this order of service with you as an indication. If you are unable to move to the altar, please inform a Churchwarden and the President will come to you.

Please sit or kneel on your return from Communion.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

Please stand

PRAYER OF OBLATION

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Altar Party departs



Go to www.churchofengland.org/christmas for details of
the Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme:
Follow The Star: Calm and Bright

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