

*Avonside Mission Area Combined Communion Service*  
**on the Sunday after Christmas: 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**10.30am, St Mary's Church, Shirehampton**

*Welcome by the Revd Duncan Jennings*

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ  
into the world. The Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us

**All and we beheld his glory.**

*The Christmas candle is lit*

*Carol: **Joy to the world**, the Lord has come!*

*Let earth receive her King.*

*Let every heart prepare him room,*

*and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!*

*Let all their songs employ;*

*while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains*

*repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,*

*and makes the nations prove*

*the glories of his righteousness,*

*and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,*

*and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**All Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;

**All Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever;

**All Jesus is our Life.**



Let us come to the light of Christ, and in his light let us ask God's forgiveness for the times when we have not behaved as he created us to be:

**All Heavenly Father, we are sorry for the things we have done wrong. Forgive us and help us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, this day and always.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All 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 Special Prayer for the day.*



*Carol: **It was on a starry night**, when the hills were bright,  
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still.  
Then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,  
a boy was born King of all the world.*

*(chorus)*

*And all the angels sang for him,  
the bells of heaven rang for him,  
For a boy was born King of all the world.  
(sing twice)*

*Soon the shepherds came that way, where the baby lay,  
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side.  
And their hearts believed again for the peace of men,  
for a boy was born King of all the world.*

### *Readings from the Bible*

Isaiah 9. 2 & 6;  
Luke 2. 15-20

### *A short talk*

#### *The Creed:*

Let us together declare our faith:

**All    We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven  
and earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with 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.**

*The Prayers:*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us offer our prayers for the needs of the world.

*This response after each intercession:*

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say:*

Lord of the Church

**All hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**



*The Peace:*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace on earth to all who love him.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All and also with you.**

*We share the Peace in any way we feel comfortable*

*Carol: **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:*

*(chorus)*

*O come. Let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither – bend our joyful footsteps;*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
‘Glory to God in the highest’:*

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life  
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

*The Communion Prayer:*

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**



*the Communion Prayer continues until:*

...evermore praising you and *saying:*

**All 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.**

*...at the end of the prayer: Amen.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All    Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All    Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world;  
grant us your peace.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**All    Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
To the glory of God the Father.**

*The sharing of Communion*

- when we can be quiet, still and at peace in God's presence

Having received our communion blessing  
we pray to God with thankful hearts:

**All    Creator God,  
you give seed for us to sow, and bread for us to eat;  
make us thankful for what we have received  
and generous in supplying the needs of others  
so all the world may give you thanks and glory,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Blessing:*

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmastide;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, with those who you love  
and with all those for whom you pray,  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Carol: 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 wondering love.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So, God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
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.*

*Dismissal:*

*The Word was made flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory.  
Go in peace to continue celebrating Christmas  
by loving and serving the Lord.*

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

