

**Welcome to our service of  
Holy Communion at St Mary's, Shirehampton  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

***Gathering:***

Come, Over-flowing joy:  
**tip-toeing into our lives  
like the children on the holiest of nights.**

Come, Good News of grace:  
**prepare our hearts to welcome you,  
and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.**

Come, Dreamer of peace:  
**so we may pour our lives and gifts into a world in need of  
reconciliation.**

***Hymn:***

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own;  
awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends each burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now his brow adorn;  
fruit of the mystic Rose,  
as of that Rose the Stem,  
the Root, whence mercy ever flows,  
the Babe of Bethlehem.

4 Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)*

All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

*CCLI Licence Number 5935*

### ***We pray for Love...***

*We light the fourth advent candle:*

A candle burns, the sign of your love.  
God of Mary, come to us again this Advent.  
**May the light of your love be born anew in us.**

### ***Confession:***

**Loving God, we are sorry that our love is less than You seek;  
less, even, than we expect from ourselves.**

**When we are envious,  
or boast through undue pride in our successes;  
when we dishonour others as we seek to promote  
our self-interests;**

**when our anger is roused,  
and our frustration fuelled by the challenges of the day.  
We say sorry. We turn around.**

*(Silence)*

**We trust ourselves to You afresh.  
For You are the God of love:  
You always look for the best,  
You never look back,  
and You are faithful to the end.**

### *Assurance of Forgiveness:*

Renewed and made whole,  
we see the path God has prepared for us—  
the way of peace,  
the way of hope,  
the way of grace,  
the way of service.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### *Collect:*

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *First Reading:        Isaiah 7: 10 - 17*

*At the end of the reading the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *Hymn:*

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow.  
Christ the babe was born for you,  
Christ the babe was born for you.

### *Gospel Reading:*

*Matthew 1: 18 - 25*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

*At the end the reader says,*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### *Sermon:*

### *Creed:*

Let us declare our faith in 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.**

### *Intercessions:*

### *The Peace:*

The God of peace makes us holy in all things  
that we may be ready at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### *Hymn:*

1 Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord:  
unnumbered blessings,  
give my spirit voice;  
tender to me  
the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour  
shall my heart rejoice.

3 Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his might:  
pow'rs and dominions  
lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn  
wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed,  
the humble lifted high.

2 Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his name:  
make known his might,  
the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure,  
from age to age the same;  
his holy name,  
the Lord, the mighty one.

4 Tell out, my soul,  
the glories of his word:  
firm is his promise,  
and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children  
and for evermore.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)*  
*Based on Luke 1: 46 – 55*  
*CCLI Licence Number 5935*

## *Invitation:*

This is the table of Emmanuel –  
a place where bread and wine  
remind us how to live and love  
as those who inhabit God's time,  
and work to build His Kingdom.

A place where we recognize  
that the one for whom we wait  
is also the one who is already, and always,  
here with us.

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day when  
Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

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

We praise and bless you,  
loving Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts  
that broken bread and wine out-poured may be for us  
the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends,  
and taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, shared it with them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took a cup of wine.  
Again he gave you thanks, shared it and said:  
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.

So, Father,  
as we remember all that Jesus did,  
we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth,  
and your kingdom comes.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints  
to be with you for ever at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



### *The Lord's Prayer:*

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup

**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*Bread and wine are shared.*

### *Post Communion Prayer:*

**Almighty God,**

**by whose command time runs its course;**

**forgive our impatience, perfect our faith,**

**and, while we wait for the fulfilment of your promises,**

**grant us to have a good hope because of your word;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Blessings:*

*Notices:*

*Birthdays:*

### *Hymn:*

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Saviour of the human race.  
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,  
Humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,  
Filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –  
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,  
He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions,  
He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me,  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls are free –  
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for His own beloved  
Till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,  
Giving glory to Immanuel!

*Stuart Townend Copyright  
© 1999 Thankyou Music  
CCLI Licence Number 5935*

***Sending:***

Let us journey into the world with our God,  
**to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.**

Let us spend each day with Jesus,  
**mending brokenness with love.**

Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,  
**so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.**

May the Christ of the makeshift manger-bed,  
the Christ of the rushed refugee bundled to Egypt for safety,  
be present with you in all that you face and call you always to faithful  
companionship in your journey throughout life.

And the Blessing of...

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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