

**Welcome to our Christmas Day
Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's, Shirehampton**

WELCOME

I bring you good news of great joy: a Saviour has been born to you.

Alleluia!

Unto us a child is born, a son given.

Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

In snow-capped churches, and on sand-strewn beaches,

God's people gather in joy to celebrate a birth.

With hopes littering our hearts like wrapping paper under a tree,

We offer our thanks and praise for the gift of grace swaddled in love.

With eyes wide open like little children,

with hearts full of wonder and laughter,

We join our lives with Mary and Joseph,

with the shepherds who ran to tell the good news.

We Light the advent candles

Good news!

Christ is born!

Our Saviour has come!

Let the celebration begin!

Let us join hands and hearts

and make our way to where our Saviour is born!

Come bow before the Saviour

and allow Christ to be born anew in our hearts today.

We sing: The first Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave a great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell...

And by the light of that same star
Three wise man came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell...

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell...

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell...

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell...

*From William Sandys' 'Christmas
Carols, Ancient and Modern' (1833)
CCL Licence Number 5935*

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

As we kneel with the shepherds before the new born Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence

You, Lord, were born for our salvation

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You came to bring light into the darkness of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring you his pardon and peace now and for ever. **Amen**

PERUVIAN GLORIA

1 Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.**

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen,

alleluia ame—n.

2 Glory to God, glory to God,
son of the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
son of the Father.**

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen,

alleluia ame—n.

3 Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.**

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen,

alleluia ame—n.

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen

First Reading - *Isaiah 9: 2 - 7*

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We Sing: O little town of Bethlehem

1
Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
to live with Thee there.

William Janes Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)
CCL Licence no: 5935

Gospel Reading- Luke 2: 1 - 14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 *please stand*

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and his name is called the Prince of Peace.

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

We Sing: Calypso Carol

1 See him lying on a bed of straw,
A draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
The Prince of glory is his name.
O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord of love again;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came!

2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world!
O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord of love again;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came!

3 Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
Be the Saviour of us all.

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord of love again;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came!

4 Mine are riches, from your poverty,
From your innocence eternity;
Mine forgiveness by your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord of love again;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came!

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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

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.

Holy, Holy, **Holy**

It is always right to give you thanks,

God our Creator,

loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe,

and filled your world with life.

Holy, Holy, **Holy**

You sent your Son to live among us,

Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;

he died to save us from our sins;

he rose in glory from the dead.

Holy, Holy, **Holy**

You send your Spirit

to bring new life to the world,

and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

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.

Father, on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.

He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

the new promise of God's unfailing love.

Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,

and remember his death and resurrection,

send your Holy Spirit,

that we who share these gifts

may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

*Amen, Amen, **Amen.***

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.
*Amen, Amen, **Amen.***

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.
*Amen, Amen, **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Gluten free wafers available please ask if required.
If you do not wish to receive communion but would like a blessing
then please come forward with your head bowed.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The shepherds said,

'Let us go to Bethlehem, and see the thing that the Lord has made known to us.'

God our Father,

whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen

Blessings

Notices

Birthdays

We sing: O come all ye faithful

1 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!

3 Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very god,
Begotten not created:
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

SENDING

Let us go,
to join the angels in singing of God's glory and grace.

Let us go to share the good news,
**that Jesus,
the brother of the vulnerable and forgotten
is in our midst still.**

Let us go to offer peace and goodwill to everyone,
joining the Spirit in telling of all we have seen and heard.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the eagerness of the shepherds
the joy of the angels,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.
And the blessing...

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peace filled New Year

Next service: 10.30am 28th December
ASMA JOINT SERVICE here at St Mary's Shire