

Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Eve 2023, 11.30pm



“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news...”

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WITH ST. PETER, LEE

Welcome! This booklet should contain all the words you need to take part in this service. Please join in with the words in bold. The service leader will invite you to sit or stand at the appropriate time. Happy Christmas!

Opening Words

Tonight Christ is born:

Alleluia.

Tonight the Saviour has come:

Alleluia.

Tonight the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest!

Opening Prayer

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.

CAROL Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father.

you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,

you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,

your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw us to himself,

that we may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

and be cleansed from all our sins,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria

**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.

Almighty God,

as we prepare with joy

to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,

embrace the earth with your glory

and be for us a living hope

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7 *p.694 in the church Bibles*

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

We remain standing for the Gospel reading:

Today Christ is born:

Alleluia

Today the Saviour has come:

Alleluia

Today Christ is born:

Alleluia

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Gospel Reading – Luke 2.1-20 *p.1027 in the pew Bibles*

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon – Chris Henriette (Assistant Curate)

Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,

he did not cling to equality with God,

but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave,

he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,

even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high,

and given him the name above every name:

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Intercessions

We pray for the needs of world

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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

CAROL In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter

a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Communion Prayer

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,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because in coming to dwell among us as man,
he revealed the radiance of your glory
and brought us out of darkness
into your own marvellous light.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 forever.**

Amen.

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

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

**Jesus, lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

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.**

Communion is shared.

*All are invited to receive bread and wine, or a prayer of blessing.
You'll be invited to come forward.*

Prayer After Communion

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen.

CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
in the highest:

O come...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

O come...

Blessing

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you.

Amen

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and those whom you love, this night and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Sleep well!

Elements of service are taken from **Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England**. Copyright acknowledgement: Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Songs are reproduced under CCLI No. 926815

FOODBANK COLLECTION

A retiring collection will be taken for the **Helping Hands Foodbank** - a joint project run by Action for Refugees in Lewisham (AFRIL) and this parish, providing food and toiletries to over 100 vulnerable migrants each week.

If you'd like to give by text, text 'LEE + your amount' to 70085. For example, text LEE 10 to donate £10. This text will cost you £10 plus a standard network rate text message.

You can donate £1, 3, 5, 10, 15 or £20.

We also have contactless giving available.