

# **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ St Peter's Church, Winchester**



**Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> 2025, 5:30pm**

# Introductory Rites

## Gathering

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.*
2. God of God, light of light,  
lo! he abhors not the virgin's  
womb;  
very God, begotten not created:
3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven  
above;  
glory to God in the highest:
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

Att. To John F. Wade, c.1711-1786,  
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) alt.

## Opening Dialogue

*All make the sign of the cross.*

Priest: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And with your spirit**

## Lighting of the Wreath

*Please sing:*

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

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## Penitential Act

## Gloria

1. Joyful news to you I bring:  
Christ the Lord is here on earth,  
our Redeemer and our King:  
sing with gladness at his birth.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*
2. Joyful news to you I bring:  
Jesus Christ is born tonight;  
now let all the heavens ring  
praises to the Lord of light.
3. Joyful news to you I bring:  
Jesus Christ, a living sign,  
for our human ransoming  
comes to us through love divine.
4. Joyful news we sing today:  
incarnation, living bread,  
passion, taking sin away,  
resurrection from the dead.

8<sup>th</sup> Century French Anon.

## Collect (Opening Prayer)

*At the end of the prayer, "...for ever and ever..."*

Response: **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Isaiah 9:2a-3a, 6-7

*At the end of the reading:*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm Psalm 98

*Please join in the response after the cantor and after each verse:*

**Today, a Saviour has been born to us; He is Christ the Lord.**

Text from The Psalms: A New Translation, translated from the Hebrew by the Grail,  
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## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand and join in the response after the cantor and after each verse:*



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## **Gospel** Lk 2:1-20

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your Spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the gospel:*

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Homily**

*Please sit.*

## **Blessing of the Crib**

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 for ever,  
And love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy  
tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with  
thee there



Vv. 1 & 2: Anon; v. 3 J.T. McFarland (1857-1913).  
Melody W J Kirkpatrick (1838-1921).

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

*Please stand.*

*After each intercession:*

Reader: Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Then we say together:*

**All: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the  
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and  
at the hour of our death. Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Presentation of gifts**

1. In the bleak midwinter,  
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 midwinter  
long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away,  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk,  
and a mangerful of hay:  
enough for him, whom angels  
fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.
4. Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
thronged the air –  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.
5. 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 can I give him –  
give my heart.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti (1830-94).  
Melody: Gustav Holst (1847-1934).

*Please stand.*

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

*At the end of the prayer, "...through Christ our Lord..."*

**All: Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your Spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just.**



## Sanctus *At the end of the Preface, all sing:*

Ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord, God of Hosts.\_\_\_\_  
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y. Ho - san-na,\_\_\_\_ ho-  
san-na\_\_\_\_ in the high-est.\_\_\_\_ Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord.\_\_\_\_ Ho - san-na  
in the high-est,\_\_\_\_ ho - san-na\_\_\_\_ in the high-est.\_\_\_\_

See Acknowledgements for copyright notice.

## Memorial Acclamation

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -  
fess your Re - sur - rec - tion, un - til you come a -  
gain,\_\_\_\_ un - til you come a - gain.

See Acknowledgements for copyright notice.

## Great Amen

All  
A - men, a - men,  
a - men, a - men.

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## Communion Rite

*Please stand.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*The Priest continues, and concludes "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ":*

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

*The Priest continues.*

The Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And with your spirit.**

The Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace with those around them, with the words:  
'Peace be with you'.*

## Agnus Dei

Introduction

All

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. repeat

3rd time

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

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*Please kneel.*

The Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## **Communion Procession**

*During Holy Communion, please either remain kneeling or seated. If you are not Catholic or not receiving Holy Communion for some other reason, we warmly invite you to join in with the procession and ask for a blessing, by crossing your arms in front of you as you approach the altar. After receiving the blessing, respond with “Amen” and return to your seat.*

*During the Communion Procession, we sing:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The first Nowell the angel did say<br>was to certain poor shepherds<br>in fields as they lay;<br>in fields where they lay keeping their<br>sheep,<br>on a cold winter's night that was so<br>deep. | 2. They looked up and saw a star,<br>shining in the east, beyond them<br>far,<br>and to the earth it gave great<br>light,<br>and so it continued both day and<br>night. |
|---|---|

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3. This star drew nigh to the north-<br>west,<br>o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,<br>and there it did both stop and stay<br>right over the place where<br>Jesus lay. | 4. Then let us all with one accord<br>sing praises to our heavenly<br>Lord,<br>that hath made heaven and<br>earth of nought<br>and with his blood mankind hath<br>bought. |
|--|---|

Trad. English Carol.

*Please sing*

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother  
and child;  
Holy infant, so tender and mild:  
Sleep in heavenly peace. (x2)

2. Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. (x2)

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. J. Young.  
Melody: Franz Gruber (1787-1863).

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Please stand.*

The priest:        Let us pray.

*The Priest says the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which the people acclaim:*

**All:            Amen.**

## **Concluding Rites**

### **Solemn Blessing**

*Please answer 'Amen' at the end of each part.*

At the end of the prayer, "...through Christ our Lord..."

**All:            Amen.**

### **Sending Forth**

*And after the sending forth:*

**All:            Thanks be to God.**

## Going Forth

1. 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!*

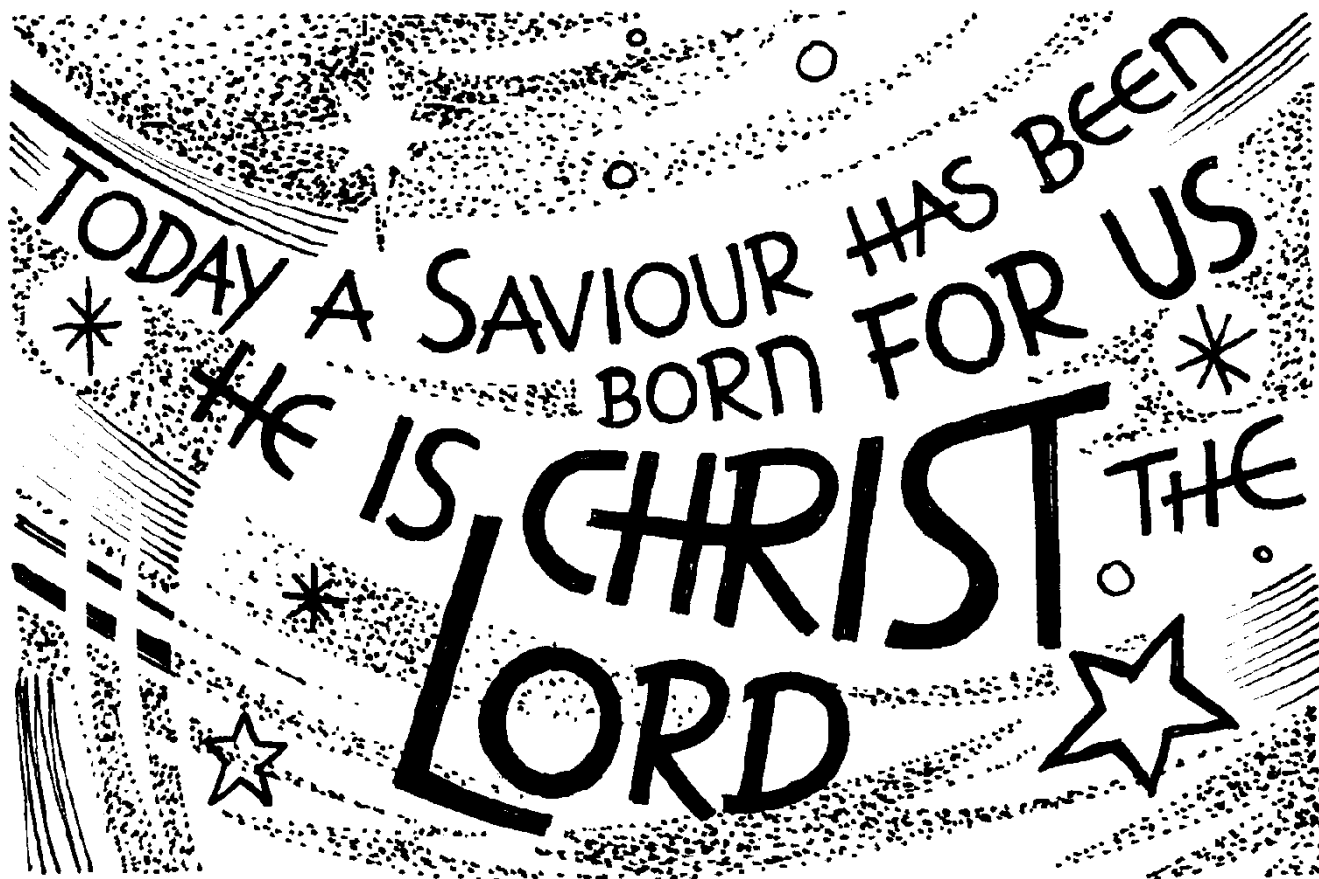
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark the herald Angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King!*

3. 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!*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt.  
Melody: F Mendelssohn (1809-47).



**We wish you all a very  
happy and blessed Christmas!**



We'd love you to stay connected  
with us and share in all the  
excitement as the parish of St  
Peter and the Winchester Martyrs  
celebrates 100 years of St Peter's  
Church.

### **Acknowledgements**

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