

Face Coverings

As per government guidelines, please wear a face covering in church, unless you are in a specified category which exempts you from wearing a mask.

Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading but must observe social-distancing whilst doing so.

Contact Tracing

*As you have booked in with the Rector for this service, those details will be used for Contact Tracing should someone attending the service being diagnosed with Covid-19, in which event, they will be passed to the health authorities for Contact Tracing purposes. **Please contact the Rector should you be diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of attending this service.***

Carol Singing

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the congregation is not permitted to sing at this service. Only a soloist is permitted. The words are included in this service sheet as you listen to the music. There are only a few verses of each carol as we are obliged to have the services as short as possible.

**Greeting**

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Christmas Responses

A child is born;
a child to save us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born;
a child to challenge us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born;
a child for the world.

We share the news with great joy.

The Jesse Tree – St Philip and St James' Church

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Each Sunday in Advent, we have put different symbols on the Jesse Tree for Jesus' ancestors. Today, we have put two symbols on the tree: a manger for the Baby Jesus, and a Chi-Ro symbol to show that he is the Christ; the one whom God promised he would send.

Hymn No. 152 (Celebrations)

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share the jubilation,
there's a new-born King today.*

'God is with us!' - round the world the message bring;
he is with us - 'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing;

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Today is Christmas Day, and we celebrate Christ's birth.

When Jesus was born it was as if God's love overflowed, spilling out into the world, making our ordinary life special and giving us joy, peace and hope. We now light all the candles, including the one in the middle, which stands for Jesus.

All the candles are lit on the Advent Wreath



One White Candle (Frère Jacques)

*One white candle
burning bright.
Welcome, baby Jesus
It's Christmas Day!*

Collect for Purity

*Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,*

*and worthily magnify your holy
name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

The Penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life, and so, now as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, we bring to mind those times, when we have **not** tried to do, say or think what Christ would want.

(Please sit or kneel)

For the times we have been more worried about what we are getting than what we are giving:
Sorry, Lord.

For the times when we have given the idea that Christ is for a small select group, instead of for everyone:
Sorry, Lord.

For the times when we have used this tiny baby as an excuse for being judgemental, and cruel, and unloving:
Sorry, Lord.

The Absolution

Generous God,
we do not know why you keep on giving to us, and forgiving us;
we do not understand your joy and your kindness.

But give us such pleasure this
Christmas in giving to other people
and receiving from them
that we may begin to understand,
and become more like you,
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*As we are obliged to shorten the service due
to COVID-19, we are omitting the Gloria.*

The Collect for The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a
pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born
again
and made your children by adoption
and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament 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.

The Gradual Hymn - Alleluia!

There's a baby born today,
in a manger where he's laid;
he's the Son of God, sing alleluia!

Tell the news to everyone:
God has sent his only Son,
to be the Prince of Peace, sing
Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel - Luke 2: 1-7

Hear the gospel according to Luke, chapter two, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²In 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Sermon

(Please stand)

The Nicene Creed (shortened version)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
Amen.***

(Please kneel or sit)

Intercessions

***On this Christmas Day we want to say:
be born in us today!***

***Merciful Father, accept these
prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***

(Please stand)

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not permitted to share a sign of peace in the way that we usually would... maybe a smile or a wave would be good!

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9: 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.



Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there is no collection. There are baskets at the doors to facilitate making an offering. In the interests of everyone's safety we would encourage you to give via online banking if possible.

Offertory Hymn No. 155 (Branle de l'Official)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
ding dong! Verily the sky
is riv'n with angels singing:
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen:

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Christ, our passover is sacrificed for us,
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

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 him thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: you have given Jesus Christ your only Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, and through him you have given us power to become the children of God: and so with all your people, 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!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!***

(Please feel free to sit, kneel or stand)

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image; male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:
we remember his passion and death,

we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body for we all share in the one bread.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in the interests of having as little movement of the congregation as possible, please remain in your seat to receive Holy Communion.

The Communion

The Great Silence

*You are invited to take some time to reflect,
having received Holy Communion.*

The Post-Communion Prayer

***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***

The Blessing

Hymn No. 160 (Mendelssohn)

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.*

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 we no more may die;
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth:

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*May the hope, the joy, the love and the peace of Jesus Christ be with
you and all your family this Christmas-time and always.*



PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM 26TH DECEMBER 2020, ALL
SERVICES WILL BE ONLINE ONLY AT 10.30 EACH SUNDAY,
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.