

**Face Coverings**

*As per government guidelines*

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/> and guidelines from the church leaders, please wear a face covering in church, unless you have a condition, or 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 night 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 Eve Responses**

In David's town,  
of David's line;  
***Jesus our Saviour.***

God clothed in flesh,  
bone of our bone;  
***Jesus our Saviour.***

Promised of old,  
here in our midst;  
***Jesus our Saviour.***

**Lighting of the Christmas Candle**

This is Christmas Eve, and we begin our celebrations of 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*

*(Please sit)*

**Hymn No. 177 (Irby)**

Once in Royal David's city  
 stood a lowly cattle shed,  
 where a mother laid her baby  
 in a manger for his bed;  
 Mary was that mother mild,  
 Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
 who is God and Lord of all,  
 and his shelter was a stable,  
 and his cradle was a stall;  
 with the poor and mean and lowly  
 lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**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.

Let us then confess our sins in  
 penitence and faith, firmly resolved to

keep God's commandments and to live  
 in love and peace:

*(Please sit or kneel)*

*Silence*

***Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
 we have sinned in thought and word  
 and deed,  
 and in what we have left undone.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly  
 repent.  
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus  
 Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us,  
 that we may walk in newness of life  
 to the glory of your name. Amen.***

**The Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who  
 truly repent, have mercy on you,  
 pardon and deliver you from all your  
 sins, confirm and strengthen in all  
 goodness, and keep you in eternal life;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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

**The Ministry of the Word**

The Collect

Eternal God,  
 who made this most holy night  
 to shine with the brightness of your  
 one true light:  
 bring us, who have known the  
 revelation of that light on earth, to  
 see the radiance of your heavenly  
 glory;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*(Please sit)*

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah  
52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
 are the feet of the messenger who  
 announces peace,  
 who brings good news,  
 who announces salvation,  
 who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up  
 their voices,  
 together they sing for joy;  
 for in plain sight they see  
 the return of the Lord to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
 you ruins of Jerusalem;  
 for the Lord has comforted his people,  
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
 before the eyes of all the nations;  
 and all the ends of the earth shall see  
 the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn - No. 182 (Stille  
Nacht)

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,  
 sleep in heavenly peace.

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,  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.



*(Please stand)*

The Holy Gospel - John 1: 1-18

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to  
 John, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and  
 the Word was with God, and the Word  
 was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with  
 God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being  
 through him, and without him not one  
 thing came into being. What has come  
 into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life  
 was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light

shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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)*

### The Intercessions

Through your Son Jesus Christ:  
**be born in us tonight.**

**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.**



### Offertory Hymn - No. 188

#### (Winchester Old)

While shepherds watched their flocks  
by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace!  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to  
earth  
begin, and never cease.'

### 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

***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 our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.***

#### 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.*

#### Invitation

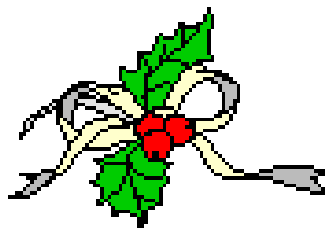


The Post-Communion Prayer

*God for whom we wait,  
you feed us with the bread of  
eternal life:  
keep us ever watchful, that we may  
be ready to stand before the Son of  
Man,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation  
gathered into one all things earthly  
and heavenly, fill you with his joy and  
peace:  
and the Blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you  
always. *Amen.*

Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)

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.*

7a. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

The Dismissal

Holy and righteous:  
*all our days.*

Our sins forgiven:  
*our darkness light.*

Working for justice:  
*praying for peace.*

Holy and righteous:  
*all our lives.*

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 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020, ALL  
SERVICES WILL BE ONLINE ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT.