

SS PHILIP & JAMES  
WHITTON  
WITH  
ST STEPHEN  
HOUNSLOW



FAMILY CHRISTMAS  
EUCCHARIST



# THE GATHERING

## **Processional Hymn** – *the ministers and choir enter the church*

- 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:  
*Chorus*
- 3 See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Chorus*
- 6 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
in the highest:'  
*Chorus*

- 7 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given:  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

*Chorus*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

## The Christmas Candle

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have  
in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace,  
love and joy.

*(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*(We light the fifth candle, to mark the Birth of Christ)*

People of God: shout and sing!  
Tell the good news of peace on earth.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.  
All God's people shout:  
**Amen!**

Angels dance  
and the bright star shines.  
All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.  
All God's people shout:  
**Amen!**

One with us,  
yet born to save,  
he will show us the way to God.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.  
All God's people shout:  
**Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Amen.**

## **Invitation to confession**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:  
*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Collect – our Prayer for the Day**

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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **Reading - Titus 2.11-14**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line  
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease."

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715); based on Luke 2:8-14*

### **Gospel Reading - Luke 2.1-14(15-20)**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.



Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Talk**

## **The Creed**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

*All* **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### **The Peace**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Offertory Hymn**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

*From Luke 2: vv 11,12*

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

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.  
*All* **You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
*All* **He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
*All* **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your ✠ Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All 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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All 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

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

*All* **Lord, give us this bread always.**

## Communion Hymn

- 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.

*Sometimes attributed to John Thomas Macfarland (1851-1913), Gabriel's  
Vineyard Songs (1892 Louisville), Little Children's Book: For Schools and  
Families (1885 Philadelphia)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

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

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

### **Final Hymn**

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 th'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, th'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.*

## **Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*A minister says*



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*