

Midnight Mass
by
Candlelight

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton



Madonna and Child - Sheila Diemert

Musical Setting:
Missa Brevis in C - Eberlin

24th December 2025

11.30 pm

THE GATHERING

Welcome to St Peter's Collegiate Church

During the service words to be said by all are printed in bold type.

Please make sure that your mobile phone is switched off or on silent before the service begins.

Please stand, if you are able

Introit Hymn

Please remain seated for the first two verses

(Solo)

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.

(Choir only)

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.

**And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.**

**For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew:
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander

Music: Henry Gauntlett; harm. Arthur Henry Mann;

desc. Sir David Willcocks

The Greeting

Please be seated

+ Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man. Great little one whose all-embracing birth brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Amen.

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

And also with you.

Prayer of Penitence

As we gather on this dark night, we remember the darkness and brokenness present in our world, and in our hearts. We take a moment in silence to offer this darkness to Christ, as we seek his mercy.

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.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may uphold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria

[Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer:

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the

Father have mercy upon us.
 For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord;
 thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 art the most high, in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.]

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 your Son our
 Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity
 of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
 Hebrews 1. 1 -12

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
 you have come among us.
 Help us who live by your light
 to shine as lights in your world.
 Glory to God in the highest.
 Amen.**

Please remain standing

Gradual Hymn

**It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth,
 To touch their harps of gold;
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men,
 From Heaven's all gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay,
 To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
 With peaceful wing unfurled,
 And still their heavenly music floats
 O'er all the weary world;
 Above its sad and lowly plains,
 They bend on hovering wing,
 And ever over its Babel sounds
 The blessed angels sing.**

**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...***

**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...***

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

Words: Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

Music: English traditional tune

The Blessing

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

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 among you and
remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Organ Voluntary

**Please remain standing until the choir and clergy
have left.**

The cost of printing these booklets has been very kindly
covered by a donation from Gough Group Holdings Ltd.



WILLIAM GOUGH

Gospel Reading

John 1. 1 - 14

*The Gospel is carried into the midst of the
congregation. Please turn to face it.*



Al- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu- ia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

Sermon

*A period of silence follows for us to reflect on the the
sermon and the readings tonight.*

Please stand, if you are able

Creed

**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, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, of
one Being with the Father; through him all
things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit

The Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
 Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

Agnus Dei

[O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.]

Please remain in your pew until invited forward for Communion by one of the stewards. When invited forward, please move down the centre aisle towards the altar. Communion will be administered in bread and wine. Communion will not be given directly into the mouth. Once you have received Communion or a Blessing, please return to your pew by way of the side aisles.

Post Communion Motet

Ding, dong merrily on high—Willcocks

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

**We thank you, Lord,
 that you have fed us in this sacrament,
 united us with Christ,
 and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
 prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand, if you are able

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 the angelic host proclaim,
 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
 Hark! the herald-angels sing
 glory to the new-born King.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Blessed Mary, Peter, Chad, Mark, John and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.**

Please kneel or sit as silence is kept.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray the prayer our saviour has taught us.

**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.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread and says,

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.**

The president invites the people to receive Communion saying:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

In this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,

Hear our prayer.

Father, in this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand, if you are able

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn, bread and wine are prepared on the altar and a collection is taken.



If you are a UK taxpayer, please use one of the white envelopes for your donation, ensuring that you complete the details on the front.

**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, let us...**

See how the shepherds
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly
fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us...

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:
O come, let us...

Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
O come, let us...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
In the highest:"
O come, let us...

*Latin 18th century
Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

*When the altar is prepared and the collection received
the president leads the offertory prayer.*

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set
before you, which earth has given and human
hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

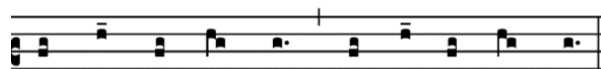
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set
before you, fruit of the vine and work of human
hands.

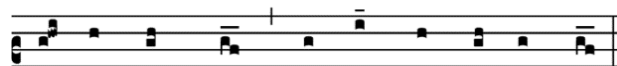
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

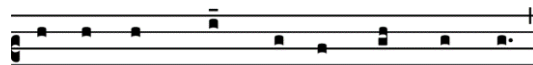
The Eucharistic Prayer



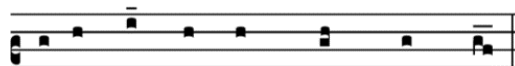
The Lord be with you, **And al- so with you.**



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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

[Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest]

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.



Christ has died, Christ is ri- sen, Christ will come a- gain!