

ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th DECEMBER, 2025



CALL TO WORSHIP

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord. *(Luke 2:10,11)*

Opening Hymn: 475 – Of the Father's love begotten

Good evening and welcome in the name of Christ.

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

let us sing to God with thankful hearts.

Open our lips, Lord:

and we shall praise your name.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE *(All Sit)*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *(All Stand)*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

**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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *(All Sit)*

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

⁷ 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.' ⁸ 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. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ 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.

Psalms 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.

² The Lord has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading – Hebrews 1: 1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' ⁷ Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' ⁸ But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' ¹⁰ And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹² like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 497 – O little town of Bethlehem

GOSPEL READING: John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ 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. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ 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. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (*All Stand*)

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(All sit or kneel)*

This response is used:

Holy God: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as 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 PEACE *(All Stand)*

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

(Luke 2:14)

The peace of the Lord be always with you;
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: 323 – It came upon the midnight clear

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this money,
symbol of the work you have given us to do;
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF RESERVED HOST

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

*We invite you to receive the bread which has been duly consecrated by the Bishop
and is now being used as the reserved sacrament.*

Hymns during Communion:

508 – On Christmas night all Christians sing

580 – Silent night

ACCLAMATION

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born
to us a Son is given.

His name will be called
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
**the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.**

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

NOTICES

Closing Hymn: 468 – O come, all ye faithful

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

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.

THE GRACE:

We say together:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Acknowledgment: Common Worship- Service and Prayers for the Church of England–Times and Seasons © The Archbishops' Council 2006. New Patterns For Worship, © The Archbishops' Council 2002.