

St Peter's Church Darwen

Christmas Day Eucharist



The Gathering

A Carol will be sung

The Greeting

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

All Amen

I bring you news of great joy, a Saviour has been born to us.

All Alleluia

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

All Alleluia

The Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.
God our Father, on this day
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation;
bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate this holy
birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All Amen

Invitation to confession

As we stand with the shepherds
before the new-born Christ child,
we open our hearts and minds to God:

Blessed are you Lord our God,
for in your deep love for us
you have shared in our humanity
that we might share in your glory.

Mindful of all we do which does not reflect your glory
help us to make room in our lives for you each day,
let us be aware of you and your coming to us,
may we know that we live in you as you live in us.

Silence is kept for a time.

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

All Amen.

The Gloria

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people
through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father,
thanks and praise we bring,
singing Hallelujah to our heavenly king.**

**Jesus Christ is risen,
God the Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners,
all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy,
now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour,
high and holy One,
seated now and reigning
from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you!
Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory,
all the praise be yours!**

The Collect

Let us pray:

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.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings & Sermon

First reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

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.

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.

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.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

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.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Carol will be sung

THE ADVENT WREATH

A prayer is said as the last candle on the wreath is lit.

God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
The light who has come into the world.

**All 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.**

THE GOSPEL READING

The Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - 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 the Messiah, the Lord.

'This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

At the end of the reading:

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

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in God the Father
 from whom every family,
 in heaven and on earth, is named.**

**We believe in God the Son
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

The Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are introduced with suitable words.

This response is used:

Jesus, Saviour,

All Hear our prayer.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

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

The 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 each other a sign of peace.

A Carol will be sung.

The Preparation of the Altar

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.

All 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.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Presider praises God for the wonder of our creation:

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:

We all sing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider recalls the last supper.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray in the words
you gave us:

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of 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.**

The Agnus Dei is sung

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

The Presider and people receive Communion.

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.
Please use the quiet time to pray and reflect.*

Prayer after Communion

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 and Dismissal

Notices may be given. A Carol will be sung.

Blessing

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us

All And we have seen his glory.

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.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All In the name of Christ, amen.

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