

**St Bridget's West Kirby with Caldy Church**

# **Christmas Night**



## **'Midnight Mass'**

**The Church of England operates an "open table" policy and Christians of all Churches are welcome to make their communion with us. We seek to be an inclusive Church and people of all faiths, ages, race, and sexuality are more than welcome in our midst. Jesus seeks to unite all peoples, not divide with false barriers of prejudice and ignorance.**

## THE GATHERING

### CAROL: O little town of Bethlehem:

O sad and troubled Bethlehem,  
We hear thy anguished cry!  
Above thy scarce 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.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
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.



## THE GREETING

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

**All and also with you.**

## Act of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light as we acknowledge our failings.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**All 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

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

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.**



## Prayer for the Day

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.

**All Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

***We sit for the readings***

*After the readings:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

## CAROL

***Please stand***

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!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

## The Gospel

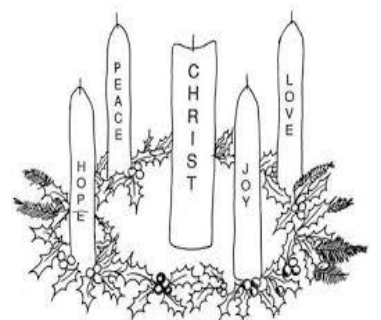
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

*After the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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



## The Sermon

*We light the Christmas Candle on our Advent Wreath  
and place Jesus in the manger, the waiting is over!*

We come to you, Christmas child, in silent amazement

**All May we welcome you among us, Child of Bethlehem**

God of love, on this most holy night you were born amongst us.

Bless this crib, that all who see it may know of your forgiveness and  
love and may receive the fulness of life which Jesus came to bring.

## The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

**All 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,

**All God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

**All 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.

**All 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;

**All 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,  
**All the Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**All With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

**All We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

## **The Prayer of the Faithful**

***Please kneel or sit***

*After each petition the following is used:*

Holy God

**All hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers the following may be used:*

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **The Peace**

***Please stand***

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.

**All and also with you.**

*At a time when the world needs peace more than ever we offer a  
sign of peace to one another with a simple handshake or similar.*

## CAROL

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

## 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.**

And now we give you thanks

because in the incarnation of the Word

A new light has dawned upon the world:

You have become one with us

That we might become one with you in your kingdom

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

in our joyful hymn of praise:



*A//* **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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.  
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.  
He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he 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.

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 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

*A//* **Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.



Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

***please kneel or sit.***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All** **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven

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

*Please come forward for communion. All are welcome to make their communion, in good faith. If you would prefer a blessing, please simply bow your head and keep your hands lowered.*

### **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.

**All** **Amen.**



### **The 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 the incarnate God  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
be yours this Christmastide and always

**All** **Amen.**

***Please stand***

## CAROL

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.

*Refrain:*

*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: *refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, in the highest: *refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *refrain*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**  
**Amen**

**MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH  
YOU A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS**

This  
Christmas  
may you never  
lose the gift of wonder.



May you make space for grace.

Sometimes the person you are hardest with is yourself.

May God help you to see yourself as God sees you,

God always gives us another chance,

Always cares,

Always hopes

Always

loves.

**Please take this service book away with you**

It now costs us over £4,000 a week to keep our church buildings in good condition and to offer a wide ministry across the parish. We receive no external funding – all our money comes from those who donate to us.

If you would like to support the ministry and mission of this parish, thank you! You can donate using this QR code, online at [stbridgetschurch.org.uk](http://stbridgetschurch.org.uk)

via debit or credit card at the back of church or

by popping some money in a plate or box at the back of church. Please Gift Aid if you can. THANK YOU!



***Acknowledgement:***

*Common Worship Services and Prayers for the Church of England 2000, material from which is included in the service, is copyright © The Archbishops Council 2010.*