



# Morning Prayer

## The First Sunday of Christmas

### 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold**.  
If you have children with you and they get restless during the service please don't worry, we won't. We do have a children's corner you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.

#### *Welcome*

*We sit as we receive words of welcome and an introduction to the service.*

#### *Preparation*

*Please stand as able*

One: O Lord, open our lips

**Many: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

One: You laid the foundation of the earth

**Many: and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

### *Prayer of thanksgiving*

One: Blessed are you, sovereign God  
creator of heaven and earth,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,  
assumed the fragility of our mortal flesh,  
may the light of your love be born in us  
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Many: Blessed be God for ever.**

### *Opening prayer*

*We sit or kneel to pray*

One: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Many: Amen.**

### *The Word of God*

#### *Psalm 36*

*We stand as able to say the psalm.*

- 1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart; ♦  
there is no fear of God before their eyes.
- 2 **They flatter themselves in their own eyes ♦  
that their abominable sin will not be found out.**
- 3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of  
deceit; ♦  
they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.
- 4 **They think out mischief upon their beds  
and have set themselves in no good way; ♦  
nor do they abhor that which is evil.**
- 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens ♦  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 **Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; ♦  
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.**
- 7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! ♦  
All mortal flesh shall take refuge  
under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 **They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; ♦  
they shall drink from the river of your delights.**
- 9 For with you is the well of life ♦  
and in your light shall we see light.
- 10 **O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you ♦  
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.**
- 11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, ♦  
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

**12 There are they fallen, all who work wickedness. ♦  
They are cast down and shall not be able to stand.**

**Many: 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.**

One: O God, the well of life,  
make us bright with wisdom,  
that we may be lightened with the  
knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Many: Amen.**

*First Reading: Baruch 4:21-27*

*We remain seated to listen to the reading.*

<sup>21</sup> Take courage, my children, cry to God,  
and he will deliver you from the power and hand of the enemy.

<sup>22</sup> For I have put my hope in the Everlasting to save you,  
and joy has come to me from the Holy One,  
because of the mercy that will soon come to you  
from your everlasting saviour.

<sup>23</sup> For I sent you out with sorrow and weeping,  
but God will give you back to me with joy and gladness for  
ever.

<sup>24</sup> For as the neighbours of Zion have now seen your capture,  
so they soon will see your salvation by God,  
which will come to you with great glory  
and with the splendour of the Everlasting.

<sup>25</sup> My children, endure with patience the wrath that has come

upon you from God.

Your enemy has overtaken you,  
but you will soon see their destruction  
and will tread upon their necks.

<sup>26</sup> My pampered children have travelled rough roads;  
they were taken away like a flock carried off by the enemy.

<sup>27</sup> Take courage, my children, and cry to God,  
for you will be remembered by the one who brought this upon  
you.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:1- 10*

*We stand as able for the Gospel reading.*

One: Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Many: Alleluia.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to  
Matthew

**Many: Glory to you O Lord.**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the  
greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' <sup>2</sup> He called a child, whom  
he put among them, <sup>3</sup> and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you  
change and become like children, you will never enter the  
kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever becomes humble like this child is  
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever welcomes  
one such child in my name welcomes me.

Temptations to Sin

<sup>6</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of stumbling-blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling-block comes!

<sup>8</sup> 'If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell<sup>[a]</sup> of fire.

#### The Parable of the Lost Sheep

<sup>10</sup> 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

One: This is the gospel of the Lord

**Many: Praise to you O Christ**

#### *Sermon*

*A time of silent reflection*

#### *Gospel Canticle*

*We stand as able to say the Benedictus.*

**Many: To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.**

2       He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
3       Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all  
that hate us,  
4       To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
5       This was the oath God swore to our father  
Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6       Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
7       And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most  
High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8       To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
9       In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10      To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

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.

To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,  
Glory to God in the highest.

## *Prayers*

*We sit or kneel to pray. At the end of each prayer the response is:*

One: Lord, in your mercy,

**Many: Hear our prayer.***At the end:*

One: Merciful Father

**Many: Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## *The Collect*

One: Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace  
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.

**Many: Amen.**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

One: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us in  
whatever form or language comes most naturally;

**Our Father**

**in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**Our Father,**

**Who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name**

**Thy kingdom come**

**Thy 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 forever. Amen.

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day  
our daily bread.

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.

## *Notices*

*We remain seated as we listen to any family news and notices.*

## *The Conclusion*

*We stand as able*

One: May God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

**Many: Amen.**

One: Let us bless the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

*Please take this service sheet home with you and recycle it when finished with it.*

*Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served at the back of church after the service. Do stay if you can.*

*There will be a retiring collection for the mission and ministry of the church on exit. You can make a donation with cash or via the contactless card-reader.*

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 10:30am:	Family Service
	Remembering our baptisms
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 10:30am:	Holy Communion

**Pease note there is no service on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December.**

### **NEW FOR 2026 - BREATHING SPACE**

“Breathing Space” is a new monthly gathering for contemplative, silent prayer. This is an ancient Christian practice of being attentive to the presence of a loving God within us and around us, and offers us a time of stillness and peace in our noisy and distracted world. Each gathering will begin with a short introductory reading leading into 20mins silent prayer, following our breath or reciting a prayer word to still our minds. We end with 5 – 10 mins of conversation about the practice.

Breathing Space will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month: 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 20<sup>th</sup> March, at 10 - 10.45am in the vestry. Please enter the church through the back door in the car park.

It is open to all who are seeking peace and who long for connection with God and community.

### **PCC TREASURER NEEDED – URGENT**

We urgently need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. This is an important role in the life of the church. You do not need to be an expert in finances, just a willingness to learn and computer literacy. Terry Daniels, our interim treasurer will work with you to ensure a handover and you will have the support of the Wardens and PCC. As a PCC member you will need to complete some Safeguarding modules and have an enhanced DBS. Please speak to Jenni or Terry if you think you may be able to take on this role.

### **HOLY COMMUNION SERVER(S) NEEDED**

We are seeking a new member (or perhaps members!) to join our team of Holy Communion servers. This role includes assisting with the preparation of the altar, helping with the distribution of Holy Communion and clearing at the end of the service. Due to the nature of our building Servers need to be able to use stairs. Full training will be given, including Basic Awareness Safeguarding which is imperative for any volunteer role in the church. Please speak to Jenni or Ian if this interests you.

### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC)**

After over a decade in this role Anne Harris intends to step down at the next APCM. We are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham as part of a team.

This role is; to work with the incumbent and PCC in promoting safeguarding within the parish, and to ensure that church leaders are implementing the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is the key link person between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

This role requires an enhanced DBS and completion of several training modules offered by the Diocese. Good computer literacy is essential for this as it includes working with a database.

If you think this might be something you would be interested in and God is calling you to consider it, please speak to Anne Harris or Jenni Crewes. We can offer you a more detailed role description.

Please pray for the right person to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life.

### **JENNI ON LEAVE**

Jenni will be on leave from 25<sup>th</sup> December midday until Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Speak to the Wardens if there is anything urgent in her absence.

## Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 <a href="mailto:revjennicrewes@gmail.com">revjennicrewes@gmail.com</a>
Mother Diane Reeves	Curate (working days Wednesday- Sunday)	07977464696 <a href="mailto:dianereeves89@gmail.com">dianereeves89@gmail.com</a>
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, <a href="mailto:juliebatham60@gmail.com">juliebatham60@gmail.com</a>
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Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
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Enquires about hiring hall or church		<a href="mailto:sthildasbooking@gmail.com">sthildasbooking@gmail.com</a>
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 <a href="mailto:sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com">sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding">https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding</a>
<u>Safeguarding information</u> 1. Never promise to keep a secret. 2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously. 3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible". <a href="http://www.sainthildawarlevwoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html">http://www.sainthildawarlevwoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html</a>		

To use our church wifi connect to BT-Q9C22K. Password is 'Hilda680'



**Inclusive  
Church**

*St Hilda's is proud to be a member of the Inclusive Church Network.*

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