



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton

The Holy Innocents

Sunday 28th December 2025



Please pray:

For The Anglican Church of Canada.

For the Diocese of Chichester Academies Trust.

For those who work to bring peace around the world.

For neighbours in Orpen Road.

For Elias, Pauline Grimstone, Veronica Holden, Diane Howe, Paul Thompson, Trevor, Robin, Rols Ham-Riche, Sarah, Peter, Michael Miller, Jess.

Recently Departed: Malcolm Kemp

Anniversaries of death: Florence Clark, Margaret Bell, Henry Timpany, Pearl May, Geoffrey Bell

Welcome to The Church of the Good Shepherd. This sheet has everything you need to follow what is going on. The writing in the red italics gives instructions. The text in normal type will be spoken by a priest, reader or other member of the congregation. We all join in with the bold type.

Please stand when the bell rings and the altar party enters.

Processional Hymn

NEH 33

- 1 Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.**
- 2 O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.**
- 3 This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**
- 4 Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.**

**5 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.**

*Prudentius (348-413)
Tr. R. F. Davis (1866-1937)*

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The priest introduces the celebration. We say the Prayer of Preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

The priest invites us to call to mind our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.

Amen.

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

Amen.

The Gloria

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, 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. Amen.

Mass of St Cedd, Nardone

The Collect

We remain standing for the Collect:

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.

Amen.

Please sit for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 148 (Chant: Lawes)

- 1 O praise the Lord of heaven *
praise him in the height.
- 2 Praise him, all ye angels of his *
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon *
praise him, all ye stars and light.
- 4 Praise him, all ye heavens *
and ye waters that are above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord *
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He hath made them fast for ever and ever *
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.
- 7 Praise the Lord upon earth *
ye dragons, and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and vapours *
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills *
fruitful trees and all cedars;
- 10 Beasts and all cattle *
worms and feathered fowls;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all people *
princes and all judges of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord *

for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him * even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,* and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* world
without end. Amen.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by

night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Creed

Please stand for the 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.

The Intercessions

In the intercessions, we make this or another response:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

The Peace

Please remain standing as the celebrant introduces the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the Offertory Hymn, the Gifts of Bread and Wine are presented by the people. A collection is taken. There is also a Card machine at the back of the church. You are welcome to use it at the end of the service if you would like to make any donation.

Offertory Hymn

NEH 465

- 1 Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.**
- 2 Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
And in great humility:**

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.*

3 Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
They bore thee to Calvary:
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.*

4 When all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying, Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee:
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.*

Emily Elliott (1836-97)

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Invitation to Prayer is said:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise
and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy
Church.**

*The priest then prays the Prayer over the Gifts to which we respond:
Amen.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also 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.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and we sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

...as without end we acclaim:

**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,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.**

Mass of St Cedd, Nardone

The priest prays the prayer of consecration, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

The Prayer continues, leading into the doxology, which ends

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated host:

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

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

We sing the Agnus Dei:

**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.**

Mass of St Cedd, Nardone

Giving of Communion

Behold 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.**

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity, and are used to receiving communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Otherwise, you may like to come forward for a blessing. Please bring this sheet with you to indicate that you would like a blessing.

Choir

What child is this? Thomas Hewitt-Jones

Communion Hymn
NEH 21

**1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!
A Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure.
Repeat the hymn again!
*‘To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!’***

**2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And Cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again!
*‘To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!’***

**3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
*And peace on earth to men!***

**4 Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
The Saviour and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
*And peace on earth to men!***

**5 All idols forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
*And peace on earth to men!***

*St Germanus (634-734)
Tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)*

Post Communion

We stand as the priest prays:

Lord Jesus Christ,
In your humility you have stooped to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

We pray together:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Notices

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The priest asks God's blessing on us:

...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 the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn
NEH 39

- 1 Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.**
- 2 Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses.**

- 3 Herod then with fear was filled:
‘A prince,’ he said, ‘in Jewry!’
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury.**
- 4 Now may Mary’s son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.**
- 5 Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.**

Tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Organ Voluntary

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615, J S Bach

THIS WEEK

Sunday 4 th The Epiphany of the Lord	
8.00am 10.15am	The Eucharist (BCP) Parish Eucharist

NOTICES

A huge thank you to all of your help over Christmas for making all of our services and events such a success.

Please note that there is **no** Monday Bible Study, Tea at The Good Shepherd or Thursday Eucharist this week.

On Saturday 24th January there will be **fundraising fair** for Family Support Work at All Saints Hove from 11am - 3pm. Mthr Alice will be running a game. If you able to come and join her for an hour or so, please let her know.

Malcolm Kemp will be received into St Paul's, West Street on Tuesday 13th January at 4.30pm. His Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 14th January at 11.30am.

Save the date for a **Burns Night Supper** on Saturday 24th January at 6.30pm.

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