**St. Stephen’s**

 **Fradley**

**The First Communion**

 **of**

**Christmas**

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*Welcome to the First Communion of Christmas*

*led by Revd Elizabeth Wall*

**Carol Once in Royal David’s City**

sung by Julia Usher and David Anderton

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into this world.

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

**All: And also with you.**

**Prayer of Preparation**

**All: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God

through Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**

**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought,**

**in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from darkness**

**to walk as children of light. Amen.**

**Absolution**

May God who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive us our sins

and make us holy to serve him in the world,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**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 for Christmas Night**

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.

**Reading Isaiah 9. 1-7** read by Mike Wilcox

**‘The Angel Gabriel’** Fradley Community Choir

**Gospel Reading Luke 2. 1-20** read by Mike Wilcox

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

and we have seen his glory.

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Address** Revd Elizabeth Wall

**The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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 God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**The Prayers**

*After each petition there is a short silence followed by*

Holy God…...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers end with the words*

……...receive the worship we offer with Mary, Joseph

and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Lighting of the Christmas Candle in the Advent Wreath**



**The Peace**

This holy night the angels sang,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to all people.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**‘Jesus is sleeping softly’** Fradley Community Choir

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

Word made flesh, life of the world,

in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches,

**All: Amen.**

The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

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 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.

**All: 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper

with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life

and the cup of salvation, we proclaim his death

and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying you destroyed our death,**

**rising you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together

for that day when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day 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.**

*The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

**The Sussex Carol**sung by Julia Usher and David Anderton

**Prayer after Communion**

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: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise**

**that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,**

**gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life;**

**we who drink his cup bring life to others;**

**we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us**

**that we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**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 God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be upon you and remain with you

now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

**‘Joy to the World’** Fradley Community Choir

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We wish you all

a very happy and peaceful

Christmas

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