



The Parish of Colindale

Midnight Mass of the Nativity



24th December 11.30pm

St Matthias' Church, Rushgrove Avenue NW9 6QY

 @ChurchColindale  stmatthiasnw9

THE GATHERING AND GREETING

**Carol – Once in Royal David's City
sung by St Martin's Voices - Stand**

First verse sung by soloist Victoria Meteyard:

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

All:

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous
childhood

he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly Maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Priest: ✕ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: And also with you

The Priest introduces the celebration.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The Priest invites all present to confess their
sins. All respond:*

**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.**

The Priest pronounces words of absolution.

KYRIE ELEISON:

**Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy

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

Priest: Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is kept. The Priest sings
the opening prayer.*

All: Amen.

First Reading - sit

A reading from the Book of the Prophet
Isaiah (*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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

We join in the Response:

**To you is born this day a saviour;
who is Christ the Lord.**

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples. **R**

For great is the Lord
and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations,
they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
O the majesty and magnificence
of his presence!
O the power and the splendour
of his sanctuary! **R**

Ascribe to the Lord,
you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour
due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord
in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him **R**

Tell it out among the nations:
'The Lord is king!
he has made the world so firm
that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.'
Let the heavens rejoice
and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful
and all that is therein. **R**

Then shall all the trees of the wood
shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world
with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth. **R**

New Testament Reading

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul
to Titus (*Titus 2.11-14*)

Brothers and sisters, 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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - stand

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Cantor: I bring you good news of great
joy: today a Saviour has been
born to us, Christ the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 2.1-14)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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!’

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

Sermon – sit

CREED – stand

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.

**On Christmas night, at the words in italics all kneel*

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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - stand
These responses may be used:*

Reader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.
(or)

Reader: Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

*Carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem
sung by St Martin’s Voices*

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep 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 to-night.**

O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth!
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth.
 For Christ is born of Mary
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep the Angels keep
 Their watch of wondering love.
 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 to-day.
 We hear the Christmas angels,
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

*During the carol the gifts of bread and wine
 are brought to the altar, and a collection is
 taken for the work of the church*

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

All: 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.

Prayer over the Offerings

At the end:

All: Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the
 Lord our God

All: It is right to give thanks
 and praise.

*The Priest praises God for his mighty acts
 and all respond:*

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues. Then:

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith.

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

The prayer continues. At the end:

Priest: ... for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All: 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.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Priest: 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.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb
(John 1:29; Rev. 19:9)

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

*If you normally receive Holy Communion in
your own church you are welcome to do so
here. If you prefer to receive a blessing please
come forward holding up this order of service.*

Minister: The Body of Christ
The Blood of Christ
*The communicant replies each time Amen,
and then receives.*

*Carol – While Shepherds Watched – sit
sung by St Martin's Voices*

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Prayer after Communion – Stand

NOTICES – sit

BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE – stand

Priest: ...and the blessing of God
Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always.

All: Amen

DISMISSAL

Priest: Go in the peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol – O come, all ye faithful

sung by St Martin's Voices

Translated from the Latin (18th century)

by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)

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 heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest; *(Refrain)*

The carol pauses for the

BLESSING OF THE CRIB – remain standing

*The Image of the Holy Child is placed in the
Crib and a prayer of blessing said. We then
sing the final verse:*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing. *(Refrain)*

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
(2000) material from which is included in this service is copyright © the
Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000
Carols printed under St Matthias' Church CCLI number 526076
St Matthias Colindale CCLI streaming license 1038212

