

The Church of England  
in Central Windsor

# SUNG EUCCHARIST

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

First Sunday of Christmas



**A warm welcome to Holy Trinity Church  
for our service today**

On most Sundays we offer Sunday Club during the service. Children are welcome to gather at the front of the church after the Collect on page 4 before they go out to their activities with our Sunday Club leaders.

If you have babies or small children with you, you are welcome to stay in church. Please don't be embarrassed if they cry or make a noise

*Please stand for:*

## **THE GREETING**

*The president says*

In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*      **Amen.**

*The president greets the people*

The Lord be with you

*All*      **and also with you.**

*Please sit for:*

## **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES**

*Please stand for:*

## **OPENING HYMN**

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain:*

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

*Refrain:*

**And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wheresoever it went.**

*Refrain:*

**This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

*Refrain:*

**Then entered in those Wise Men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

*Refrain:*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Refrain:*

*Traditional*

*Please remain standing for:*

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

As we come to the Lord near the start of this New Year,  
let us seek his grace to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh  
and splendour of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*All* **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

*The president says*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon† and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*All*      **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

*The priest says:*

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
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

*Please sit for:*

## FIRST READING

### 1 Samuel 2.18–20, 26

<sup>2</sup> <sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain sitting for:*

## Psalm 148

*The congregation is invited to join in with the Response*

***Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise him in the heights***

Praise the Lord / from the heavens;  
praise him / in the heights.  
Praise him / all you his angels;  
praise him / all his host. ***Response***

Praise him / sun and moon;  
praise him, all you / stars of light.  
Praise him hea / ven of heavens,  
and you waters a / bove the heavens. ***Response***

Let them praise the name / of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they / were created.  
He made them fast for e / ver and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not / pass away. ***Response***

For his name only / is exalted  
his splendour above / earth and heaven.  
He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his / faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people / who are near him. ***Response***

## SECOND READING

### Colossians 3.12–17

3<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for:*

### GRADUAL HYMN

**Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation:  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses.**

**Herod then with fear was filled:  
'a prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
and all little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury.**

**Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder.**

*Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> Century  
Tr Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

*Please remain standing for:*

## **GOSPEL READING**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 2.41–52**

2<sup>41</sup> Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.<sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'  
<sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

At the end the reader says:

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

*Please sit for:*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand for:*

## **THE APOSTLES CREED**

*Let us declare before God the faith of the church in which, we pray, we may all find grace to grow.*

*All*      **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

*Please sit or kneel for:*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*These responses may be used*

*All*      Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*All*      Lord hear us  
**Lord graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

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



# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please stand for:*

## THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.*

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed. It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church. Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

**From God our heavenly Father  
a blessèd angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings ...***

**And when they came to Bethlehem  
where our dear Saviour lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling down,  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings ...***

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all others doth efface:  
*O tidings ...*

*Traditional*

#### PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The president takes the bread and wine.*

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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*All*     The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*     Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**  
Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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 glorious kingdom

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

*All* **Great is the mystery of faith  
Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the  
Baptist, St Stephen, St Agnes and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All*     **Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The priest says:  
Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with  
confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version as  
we pray together*

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

**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.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

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.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*All*     **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.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

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.

*All*     **Amen.**

*If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.*

*Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

*During the administration of communion the following will be sung*

**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.***

O how blest that wonderous 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.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealed  
in the page of prophecy;  
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!

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.

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.

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

**ANTHEM:** Coventry carol, *arr. Martin Shaw.*

#### **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **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**

*Members of Sunday Club are invited to show their work to the congregation*

*Please stand for:*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*The president says*

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you  
and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*     **Amen.**

## **FINAL HYMN**

**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)

*The priest says*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

**Please stay for refreshments which will be served after the service.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt 'at home' here, that you will be refreshed by today's service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the "Our Faith" link on the Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Team Website**  
[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

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