



**At the heart
of Christmas**



Christmas Day 2021

President: Revd Heather Waldsax
Preacher: The Revd Canon Andrew Rowland
Deacon: Revd Nick Wells

Organist and Director of Choirs: Colin Davey

Setting: Mozart - Spatzenmesse

Lighting of the Christmas candle

Carol: 79 O little town of Bethlehem

The Preparation

President: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light
**Those that lived in a land of deep darkness
on them has the light shined**

President: Come let us worship the God
whose light brings hope to a weary world

President: The Lord be with you
and also with you

Prayers of Penitence

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,

and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,

without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do

and think and say;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

President: May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we might 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.
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

President: Lord Jesus Christ
Your birth at Bethlehem
Draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
Accept our heartfelt praise
As we worship you
Our Saviour and our eternal God **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 62: 6-12 read by Anthony Oliver

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;
they will never be silent day or night.
You who call on the LORD,
give yourselves no rest,
and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
"Never again will I give your grain
as food for your enemies,
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine
for which you have toiled;
but those who harvest it will eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather the grapes will drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary."
Pass through, pass through the gates!
Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway!
Remove the stones.
Raise a banner for the nations.
The LORD has made proclamation
to the ends of the earth:
"Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your Saviour comes!
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.'"
They will be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of the LORD;
and you will be called Sought After,
the City No Longer Deserted.

New Testament reading Titus 3:4-7 read by Anthony Oliver

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Carol: 60 Away in a manger

Angel Dialogue

Gospel Acclamation

Today Christ is born: **Alleluia!**
Today the Saviour has come: **Alleluia!**
Today the angels sing on earth:
Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

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

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

Sermon

The Revd Canon Andrew Rowland

The Creed

President: Let us declare our faith in God:
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and 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 one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers led by Sheila Soper
The response to the words "Lord Jesus" is **hear our prayer**

The Peace

President: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and his name is called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Carol: 89 While shepherds watched

Preparation of the Table

President: Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President: The Lord be with you
and also with you.

President: Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

President: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

President: 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:

Choir: Sanctus

President: 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.

Deacon: 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 Cuthburga and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

President As our Saviour taught us, so we pray,
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.**

The bread of life is broken,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Choir: Agnus Dei

Anthem: Ding Dong merrily on high – 16th century French Carol Arr. Mack Wilberg

Post Communion Prayer

President: God our Father, whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Carol: 66 Hark the herald angels sing

The Closing Prayer and Blessing

President: God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the grace of Christmas, which is joy;
the mercy of Christmas, which is love;
the spirit of Christmas, which is peace;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ...
and the blessing... **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Dieu parmi nous – Olivier Messiaen

*A retiring collection will be taken as you leave the service to be
divided between Minster funds and the following charities:*

A **local** charity – Founders of the Wimborne Food Bank, Faithworks Wessex

A **national** charity – *Samaritans*

A **global** charity – The people of Yambio and Nzara in South Sudan. Yambio, is our partner Diocese in South Sudan. Money raised will enable children in Yambio to receive education and health care.

*Gift Aid envelopes are provided for the
use of UK tax payers.*

Please give generously. Thank you.



*Acknowledgements: Collect and prayer from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000
Times and Season ©The Archbishops' Council 2006
The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Anglicized edition ©1989,
1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America
and are used by permission. All rights reserved*