



**At the heart
of Christmas**



Christmas Eve 2021

Midnight Mass

11pm

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

Organist and Director of Choirs: Colin Davey
Mass setting: Haydn St Nicholas Mass

President Grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Christmas prologue

Carol: 70 It came upon the midnight clear

Dedication of the Crib

President: As we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son,
born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born
of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation;
bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith,
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;
who is alive and reigns for ever **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon: Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Deacon: You were born for our salvation:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

President: May the God of all healing and forgiveness,
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Choir: The Gloria

The Collect

President: Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.
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 52: 7-10

read by De Ashton

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading Hebrews 1: 1-4

read by De Ashton

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Carol: 84 Silent night**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John:

Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the

will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [NRSV]

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

The Sermon

Reverend Nick Wells

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.**

Prayers led by Sue Tipping

To the words: Holy God please respond – **hear our prayer**

President This holy night the angels sang
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace to all in whom he delights'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The Peace

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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.**

Carol: 81 Once in royal David's city – omit starred verses

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: 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 of us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.
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.

Choir: Sanctus

President: 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.

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

President: 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 Cuthburga and 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. **Amen.**

President: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence:
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 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: O Magnum Mysterium - Victoria

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 Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Carol: 78 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Dismissal

President: May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon Go with the peace of Christ born-again into your lives
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Carillon - Geoffrey Bush

*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 is a local independent Christian charity, passionate about helping people get out of crisis or isolation through practical schemes and continuing that support until they thrive again.

A **national** charity –*Samaritans* is aimed at providing emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland.

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.



Let the love that shaped earth and heaven
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that created humanity
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that forgives and renews
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings the blessing of peace
dwell within us this Christmas.
And may we share that peace
with all people near and far. **Amen.**



Christmas Day Services

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Family service with Holy Communion

St Stephen

Sunday 26 December

9.30am Holy Communion



All are welcome



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