

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.



The Parish Church of St Cross, Knutsford



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The First Eucharist of Christmas
broadcast online 2020

The Gathering

Processional Carol

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;
in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger.
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!
Behold your King, before the lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another,
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
with all our hearts we praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
his power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Blessing

The blessing is given

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Recessional Carol

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

*Authorised words of distribution are used,
and the communicant replies*

Amen

Prayer after Communion

On Christmas Night

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. **Amen.**

This prayer may be said:

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.

*The 'Baby Jesus' is taken to the Nativity Scene during the Processional.
The Candles on the Advent Wreath are lit and this prayer is said:*

Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.

Help us who live by your light

to shine as lights in the world.

Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

These words are then said

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man. Great little one whose all-embracing birth brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

The Greeting

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

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come

to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our Saviour,
You were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
Your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Stand to sing / say one of the following

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread, 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.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

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 cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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 *[N 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.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

On 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 that 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

This acclamation heralds the gospel reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

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,**

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, 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.

A prayer is said

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 (E)

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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,
and 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 the God we cannot see.

**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 of Intercession

During the prayers of intercession this response may be used

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

A carol is sung

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 tonight.

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 to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.