

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
SEND**

# **CRIB SERVICE**



**from the  
Straw Chapel of the Annunciation**

**Christmas Eve 2020  
3.30pm**

## **Greeting**

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

**All to live in his marvellous light.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to the Straw Chapel this Christmas Eve.

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

## **Prayers of Penitence**

### ***Invitation to Confession***

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Father God, we are sorry for the things we do and say and think which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves.

Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people more and more.

**All Amen.**

### ***Prayer of Absolution***

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Candles**

*The candles of Advent and Christmas are lit*

## **Thanksgiving**

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;  
born a child,  
you are one with us.

**All Glory to God in the highest.**

Glory to Christ, Son of David;  
born to rule,  
you reign in our hearts.

**All Glory to God in the highest.**

Glory to Christ, Son of man;  
born to save,  
you are the light of the world.

**All Glory to God in the highest.**

## **Hymn**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!  
look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in thy tender care  
And take us to Heaven  
to live with thee there.**

## Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. *Luke 2.1-7*

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

## The Crib

*Figures are placed in the Crib and this prayer is said*

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.

**All    Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child;  
holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight'  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

## Prayers

Jesus, whose mother was Mary:

we pray for ... [*families*].

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger:

we pray for ... [*the homeless, refugees*].

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:

we pray for ... [*the creation*].

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:

we pray for ... [*nations and peoples*].

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel:

we pray for ... [*those in particular need*].

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name;**

**your kingdom come;**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive them that 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.**

## Hymn

**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.**

**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 our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

**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;  
When like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.**

## Blessing

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,  
source of all being, eternal word, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All    Amen.**