

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Send  
Christmas Night  
24 December 2020 at 11.30 p.m.**

**MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION  
Order One**



*Detail of a sarcophagus from San Giacomo in Settimiana, Via della Lungara, Museo Nazionale, Rome, c. 330-340, marble. This early Nativity is very similar to the first securely dated example of the Nativity in history. Notably, Mary is absent.*

*The earliest depictions of the Nativity were very different from our current conception; they typically formed part of a larger cycle narrating the life of Christ carved into the surfaces of Roman sarcophagi, thus bringing the message of death inherent to a sarcophagus in direct relationship to the most important birth in the history of Christianity.*

*This service will begin at 11.30pm in the **Straw Chapel** of the Annunciation at Send Vicarage and will be live-streamed using **Facebook** on the 'Send Parish Church' page.*

TRANSFORMING **CHURCH**  
TRANSFORMING **LIVES**

# ¶ *The Gathering*

## *The minister greets the people*

Good evening coronavirus pilgrims and welcome to this Christmas night celebration of the life and ever-present Spirit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## HYMN

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring –  
News of great joy news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty.**

**When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the new-born King.**

**All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night;  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.'**

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

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

**All** and also with you.

*Let us pray.*

## Prayers of Penitence

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.

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

Lord, have mercy.

**All** 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.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,  
Your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
Forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## Advent Candles

*The Christmas candle is lit, and this prayer is said*

**All** Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Amen.

## The Collect *For Christmas Night*

*Let us pray*

*Silence is kept*

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the 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.

**All** Amen.

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Hebrews 1.1-4 NRSVA*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## 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  
Heavenly 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 dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth**

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) trans John Young (1820-1885)  
Music Franz Gruber (1787-1863)*

## Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

*John 1.1-14*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

## The Creed

**All** 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 of Intercession

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us offer our prayers for the needs of the world.

Wonderful Counsellor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.  
Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

Mighty God,  
make the whole world know  
that the government is on your shoulders.  
Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,  
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.  
Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.  
Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

Almighty Lord,  
hear our prayer  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.

**All** Amen.

# ¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

## **The Peace**

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

*Luke 2.14*

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

## **Preparation of the Table**

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*If you normally make an offering in church please continue to do so, putting something aside for when we can all be back together.*

*We also have a page on the JustGiving website – look on the home page of our church website, [www.sendparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.sendparishchurch.co.uk) where you'll find the link.*

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*The president takes the bread and wine.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All 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,  
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.  
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:

**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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All 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 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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All** 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

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**All** we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## Receiving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**All** Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*The president receives communion on behalf of the people.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

### *Post Communion*

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.

**All** Amen.

# ¶ *The Dismissal*

## Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God  
Begotten, not created  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
All glory in the highest  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Words: From Latin *Adeste fidelis*, trans by Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Music: possibly by John Wade (1711-1786)

## ***Blessing***

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
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.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

*The ministers and people depart.*

# Happy Christmas