

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Midnight Mass

24th December 2024

THE GATHERING

Processional Hymn – Once in Royal David's City

Verse 1 Solo

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.

2. 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.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden;
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

5. 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.

6. 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.

The Gathering

The Greeting

Please stand as able.

President: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

May the God of deep joy and peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

The President introduces the service and welcomes the people.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon: Christ the bringer of hope has come
to offer us healing and forgiveness.
Let us be still on this silent night and call to mind our sins.

A moment of stillness...

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.

Absolution

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.

All: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The final candle of the Advent Wreath is lit, and we say together:

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.

Gloria (Glory to God)

We are seated whilst the choir sings the Gloria (text in Latin, translation below).

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Gloria in excelsis Deo. | <i>Glory to God in the highest.</i> |
| Et in terra pax | <i>And on earth peace</i> |
| hominibus bonae voluntatis. | <i>to people of good will.</i> |
| Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. | <i>We praise You. We bless You.</i> |
| Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. | <i>We worship You. We glorify You.</i> |
| Gratias agimus tibi | <i>We give You thanks</i> |
| propter magnam gloriam tuam. | <i>for Your great glory.</i> |
| Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, | <i>Lord God, heavenly king,</i> |
| Deus Pater omnipotens. | <i>God the Father almighty,</i> |
| Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. | <i>Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.</i> |
| Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, | <i>Lord God, Lamb of God,</i> |
| Filius Patris. | <i>Son of the Father.</i> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. | <i>You, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i> |
| Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. | <i>You, who takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.</i> |
| Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. | <i>You, who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.</i> |
| Quoniam tu solus sanctus. | <i>For You alone are holy.</i> |
| Tu solus Dominus. | <i>You alone are the Lord.</i> |
| Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe. | <i>You alone, O Jesus Christ, are most high.</i> |
| Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. | <i>With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</i> |

Music by Mozart

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.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

We remain seated for the Psalm sung by the choir.

Second Reading

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand. The Choir sing the Gospel acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
full of Grace and Truth.
Alleluia.

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

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

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Please sit.

Creed

Please stand as able.

President: Let us affirm our faith in God:

All: **We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family in heaven and on 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 of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Please sit or kneel.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

At the end of each prayer, the deacon says:

All: Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers, the deacon says:

Father, in this holy night
angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and all the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand as able.

President: This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to god in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

Offertory Hymn – Of the Father's Heart Begotten

- 1 **Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.**

- 2 **By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.**

- 3 **O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.**

- 4 **This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.**

- 5 **Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.**

Prayer at the 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.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

We remain standing, as able.

President: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

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.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the gift of your Son, Jesus,
born of Mary on this holy night,
and laid in a manger.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus (text in Latin, translation below):

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui
venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God Almighty.

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.

Music by Mozart

We thank you, loving Father, because,
when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
"This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
"This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins."

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, Joseph, the angels, shepherds, Alphege,
and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All: Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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.

The Breaking of Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The Invitation

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

All: Lord, give us this bread always.

We are all invited to draw near to God today. If you, or your children, regularly receive the bread and wine at any Christian church, you are most welcome to do so. If you do not usually receive the bread and wine, or prefer not to do so today, you are invited to come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. If you do this, you may want to hold your hands together in prayer so that we know your intention. Thank you.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei while those administering Holy Communion receive.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. *Music by Mozart*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

The Giving of Communion

The stewards will guide everyone to the right location.

Communion Anthems

During the administration of Holy Communion the Choir will sing 'A Spotless Rose' by Herbert Howells and Sing Lullaby (trad Baque, arr. C.M. Thomas).

Communion Hymn – O Little Town

1. 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.
2. O morning star 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 wond'ring love.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Post Communion Prayer

President: 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.

All: O Love Divine,
be born in our hearts again this Christmas,
that we may come home to you,
the One in whom all our journeys
have their beginning and their ending
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Notices

Final Hymn – O come all ye faithful

1. 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!*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

The Blessing

Please stand as able.

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

All: **Amen.**

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

All: **Amen.**

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

All: **Amen.**

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

All: **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to proclaim the Word made flesh.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Organ voluntary: Dieu Parmi Nous (*God among us*) by Olivier Messiaen

On behalf of all the clergy, lay staff, and volunteers here at St Alphege Church, and throughout Solihull Parish, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives

www.solihullparish.org.uk

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