

St John's Church Ranmoor



Midnight Mass

The Gathering

Opening Hymn

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to all
from heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long,
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise of mortal strife,
and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

The Greeting

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

Amen

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.
The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

(The lighting of the centre Advent Candle takes place)

Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us now confess our
sins to God on this Holy night.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you our God.
Amen**

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.

The choir sings:

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth
peace goodwill towards men.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We adore thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
for thy great glory.
Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ.
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.
Who takest away the sins of the world
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world
hear our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the Father's right hand,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy.
Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

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.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gradual 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.**

Please sit

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 1.1-14

We stand to join in the Gospel **Alleluia** and turn to face the Gospel reader.



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



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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please stand

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy
Here our prayer

Merciful father, **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The collection is taken and the table is prepared
and bread and wine brought forward are placed upon it*

Offertory 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...

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear.**

We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

O come let us adore him...

**Child for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?**

O come let us adore him...

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest.**

O come let us adore him...

**Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing**

O come let us adore him...

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hand.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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,
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 angles of heaven
We lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
And sing our joyful hymn of praise.

The choir sings:

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus	Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Dominus deus sabaoth.	God of power and might.
Pleni sunt ceoli et terra Gloria tua	Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in excelsis.	Hosanna in the highest.
[Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini.	[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in excelsis.]	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:
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 Mary, John and 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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The choir sings:

Agnus Dei

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.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All baptised Christians, of any age, are welcome to receive communion at St John's. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, simply keep your head bowed. Please come up as directed by the sidespeople.

During the distribution of Communion the choir will sing a selection of carols and other seasonal music.

After Communion

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

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.

Final Hymn

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 heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time, behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th’incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.

Blessing and Dismissal

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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

*The service concludes with an Organ Voluntary. Do feel free to sit
and listen if you wish to do so.*

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas

