

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

**A WELCOMING,
INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER**



FESTIVAL EUCHARIST
on
CHRISTMAS MORNING
2020

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

A very sincere welcome to all our visitors, especially if you are visiting us for the first time and spending Christmas in Lancaster.

Please join in saying the words in **bold** type. **We regret that congregational singing is not permitted.** Everyone at the Priory will be very grateful if you would make your offering by **GIFT AID** this morning. Envelopes are at the back of church. Thank you.

In the unlikely event of a fire, please note that there are exits at all four corners of this Priory Church.

President:	The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster
Sermon:	The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest
Choir Setting:	Missa Brevis (Dove)
Readers:	Rachel Ann Powers, Malachi Powers
Intercessor:	Hilary Hopwood & Peter Hopwood
Organist:	Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist
Introit:	In dulci júbilo (Bach)
Offertory:	Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her (Krebs)
Final Voluntary:	Toccatà (Widor)

Services next Sunday 27 December—St John

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Celebrant: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding
10.00am	Priory Eucharist Presiding: The Revd Canon John Roff Sermon: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

THE WELCOME and Notices – The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster
*Please join in saying the words in **bold** type.*

We stand at the entry of the ministers

At the crib:

President: Lord, by the singing of angels you called humble people to discover your birth, and by the leading of a star you revealed your glory to strangers. Through this crib teach us all to treasure you now, to know you now, and to share you now, that all the world may be glad.

Amen

The priest greets the congregation:

‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God,

and now we see you as a newborn child.

The congregation is invited to sit as the Christmas Candle is lit.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace: to you be praise and glory for ever. The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

The candle is lit

It is our Christ, our Messiah, we watch for.

Today he comes among us!

Christ the Light of the World!

The deacon invites us to confess our sins

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you and against our neighbour

in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through weakness,

through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,

forgive us all that is past

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life

to the glory of your name.

Amen.

The priest pronounces the

WORDS 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.

Amen.

THE CHOIR SINGS THE GLORIA

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. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, 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. 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. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

Please sit for

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

(Isaiah 9. 2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 1-6

O sing to the Lord a new song; O sing to the Lord, all the earth.

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.*

*For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.*

O sing to the Lord a new song; O sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Please sit for **THE SECOND READING**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

(Titus 2.11-14)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

And also with you

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

Glorify to you, O Lord

(Luke 2.1-14)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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

SERMON The Revd Canon John Roff

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.
And Peace to his people on earth. Amen.

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

All stand for

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**

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

All may exchange a sign of peace

THE OFFERTORY

The Gifts are brought to the Altar.

The priest prepares the bread and wine

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but
hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our
salvation. **Amen.**

*Please remain standing, if you feel able, until after we have recited the Lord's Prayer
together and seen the bread broken before us.*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Blessed are you, God of all glory, through your Son Jesus Christ.

We worship and adore you.

He is the heavenly King, born of Mary.

We worship and adore you.

He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby.

We worship and adore you.

He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes.

We worship and adore you.

He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger.

We worship and adore you.

Strong in weakness, glorious in humility, to him be all praise and glory. We join with all the company of heaven, worshipping you and singing:

THE CHOIR SINGS THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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. Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon:

This is the mystery of faith

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

(each in our own language)

**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 THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, 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.

Please kneel or sit as

THE CHOIR SINGS THE AGNUS DEI

*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.*

The priest invites the congregation to receive communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

All Christians who are members in good standing of their own denominations are invited to receive Holy Communion (only the Bread). Please follow directions from the stewards and maintain social distancing as you line up. Holy Communion is received from the priest at the chancel step, as the communion wafer is placed on your palm. If you would prefer to receive a Blessing, please bring this order of service with you. If you require a gluten free wafer please bring a green card which you can find near the entrance to the church.

During the Communion the choir sings the anthem: A babe is born (Mathias)

*A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we sing
both night and day. Veni Creator Spiritus
At Bethlehem, that blessed place, The child of bliss now born he was; And
him to serve God give us grace, O lux beata Trinitas.
There came three kings out of the East, To worship the King that is so
free, With gold and myrrh and frankincense, A solis ortus cardine.*

*The angels came down with one cry, A fair song that night sung they In
worship of that child: Gloria tibi Domine
A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we sing
both night and day. Veni Creator Spiritus. Noel!*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The priest gives

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

Amen.

Deacon: Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

The Priory is taking a big hit from a drop in visitor income, venue income, and service collections.

If your income is keeping up, please consider using the barcode to make a donation to the work of the Priory.

We share a great sense of thanksgiving for all that God is inspiring around us in these difficult times.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



**LANCASTER
PRIORY**

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