

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

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



MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE NATIVITY AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB

**Thursday 24 December 2020
at 11.30pm**

*In the unlikely event of a fire, please note that there are exits at all four corners of this Priory Church. 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** tonight. Envelopes are at the back of church. Thank you.*

President and Sermon: The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster

Choir Setting: Missa media nocte (Tarney)

Readers: Bella Leong, Sieberen Granger

Intercessor: Anna Walker

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist

Introit: Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her (Karg-Elert)

Offertory: A Christmas Canon on 'Forest Green' (Carter)

Final Voluntary: Finale (Symphony 6) (Widor)

Friday 25 —Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion. Celebrant: The Revd Keith Brockbank

10.00am Festival Eucharist

President The Revd Canon Chris Newlands

Sermon: The Revd Canon John Roff

Sunday 27—St John

8.00am Holy Communion. Celebrant: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding

10.00am Said Eucharist

Presiding: The Revd Canon John Roff

Sermon: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

*Please join in saying the words in **bold type**.*

THE CHRISTMAS PROCESSION

*Please **remain standing***

as the ministers gather at the crib.

The choir sings O little one sweet (Bach)

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

President: Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

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.

Amen.

The priest greets the congregation:

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Deacon invites us to confess our sins

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.

**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 CHOIR SINGS THE KYRIE

*Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.*

The priest pronounces the

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

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 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

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.

Please sit for

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(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.

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

PSALM 98

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
Have won for him the victory.*

*The Lord has made known his salvation;
His deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

*Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.*

*With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.*

*Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

(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.

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

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

THE GOSPEL

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord .

(John 1. 1-14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the

flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

SERMON: The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

These responses may be used

Leader: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

All stand for

THE PEACE

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'
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

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our
poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **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

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:

THE CHOIR SINGS THE SANCTUS AND THE 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: Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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

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 Sussex Carol (arr. Wilcocks)

*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.'*

PRAYER AFTER 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.

Amen.

The choir sings **O come, all ye faithful**

*Latin 18th Century
Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80
and others*

The priest gives

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the
perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and
the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; 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. Amen.

**TONIGHT'S SERVICE SHEET IS SPONSORED BY
ALICE GRANGER.**

2020 ABC

no **A**cting or **B**allet, no **C**uddling or **D**ining, no **E**nclosed spaces or close **F**riend's faces,
no **G**atherings or **H**igh lifeing, some **I**solation and **J**uxta positioning,
with **K**nocks and **L**ives lost, **M**ourning and **N**o understanding, **O**pen **P**ark spaces
and supermarket **Q**ueuing, **R**estaurants reopening then **S**ilently reclosing,
Time now to **U**nwind and **V**isualize a vaccinated **W**orld and the hopes and
eXpectations the **Y**ear 2021 will then bring. **Zzzz**

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

**Because of the limited capacity in the Priory, we are restricted to
a maximum of 100 people in the congregation, seated in the Nave
and Regimental Chapel.**

**Please book early to ensure you have a place as we cannot extend
our capacity.**

**So that as many people as possible can attend
please come to either Midnight Mass or Christmas Festival Eucharist.**

CHRISTMAS DAY—Friday 25 December
8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
10.00 am **Christmas Festival Eucharist**

ST JOHN—Sunday 27 December
10.00 am **Said Eucharist**

**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.**



Please use the GiftAid envelopes if you are donating by cash. The Contactless Card Reader by the SW door accepts all cards, Android and Apple Pay or give using your phone – scan our QR code **THANK YOU FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY**



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