



LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

THE EUCHARIST

Christmas Day

25th December 2021

10.00am

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

The celebration of Christ's coming among us at Christmas (known as the 'Incarnation') is one of the two poles of the Christian year, along with the story of Christ's death and resurrection. Christmas is much more than the celebration of Jesus's birth: it reminds us of the central truth that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1.14), fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (7.14) that 'a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.'

The restrictions under which our services are being conducted at the moment are part of our responsibility to ensure that all who worship and visit the priory feel safe and valued. These are available on an additional flyer at the back of church. Thank you for your patience.

A Merry Christmas from everyone at Lancaster Priory.

Today's service (Christmas Day):

President: The Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders, Vicar of Lancaster

Preacher: Mrs Lois Kirtley, Licensed Lay Minister

The Reader: Malachi Powers

Intercessor: Reuben Vasey-Saunders

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist. Choir: Full Choir

Setting: *Lancaster Mass* (Truslove)

Acknowledgements

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Please remain seated as the choir enter during organ music.

The Welcome and Notices

Please stand as the Servers and Clergy process to the Crib whilst the organ plays a Festal Fanfare.

The Blessing of the Crib

The congregation faces the crib and the president says

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, this day 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 crib is sprinkled with Holy water and censed and we sing

Hymn (24) *The procession moves to the east and the altar is censed.*

Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,
on which the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above:
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate, of the Virgin's Son.

2.Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day has God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

3.He spake; and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace on the earth, in every heart goodwill.

4.To Bethlehem straight th' enlightened shepherds ran,
to see, unfolding, God's eternal plan,
and found, with Joseph and the blessèd maid,
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
then to their flocks, still praising God return,
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

5.O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving humankind;
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till our first heavenly state again takes place.

John Byrom (1692-1763)

The Greeting and lighting of the Christ Candle *The president says*

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.**

Joy to the world **the Lord has come!**

The central candle is lit.

Jesus is the light of the world. **A light no darkness can ever put out.**

We sing

**Advent candles tell their story
on this Christmas Day.**

**Those who waited for God's glory:
they prepared the way.**

**Christ is with us: loving, giving,
in us living, here today!**

(T.336)

Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

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 choir sings the Kyrie

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

The 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 Gloria *The choir sings.*

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 *The priest says 'let us pray' and silence is kept*

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

The Reading 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**

Hymn (HCFC p378)

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

**3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**4. 'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid'.**

**5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'**

Nahum Tate 1652-1715

The Gospel Reading Luke 2.1-14

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation, the cantor sings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The deacon says The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord**

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.**

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Affirmation of Faith *Please stand*

Let us affirm our faith in God

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

Please sit. This response is used Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

And at the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace *Please stand*

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**

The deacon says Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn (HCFC p226) *During this hymn a collection will be taken*

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:

O come, let us adore him...

3. 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...

6. 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...

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesu to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him...

Latin 18th Century Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 & others

Offertory Prayer

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**

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

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.

The priest continues

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.

The deacon says Jesus Christ is Lord: **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

The priest continues

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.

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

The Agnus Dei *Please sit. The choir sings*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, Give us your peace, grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

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 priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

Communion Anthem *The choir sings Ding, dong! Merrily on high (arr. Wilcocks)*

Ding dong merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel-singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And io - io - io, by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

May you beautifully rhyme your eve-time song, ye singers.

Prayer After Communion *The president prays*

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.**

Hymn (26 or HCFC p107) *We remain seated*

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.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others

The Blessing and Dismissal *The priest prays*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

The Deacon says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God. Amen.

Organ Voluntary *Toccata (Widor)*

Please remain standing while the servers, choir and clergy depart.