



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

# **THE EUCHARIST**

Midnight Mass Recording

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
**6.30pm**

## **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.'

Thank you for joining us for this special service, which we are recording for the Church of England's National Online Congregation.

**We hope that you will return at Christmas when it comes!**

Musical Director: Don Gillthorpe

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist.

Choir: Full Choir

Setting: *Missa media nocte* (Tarney)

### **Acknowledgements**

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## The Welcome and Notices

*Please stand as the Servers, Clergy and Choir process to the crib.*

### **Hymn** (HCFC p260)

*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.

*All*

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.

*Choir*

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.

### **The Blessing of the Crib** *The congregation faces the crib. 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, 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 crib is sprinkled with Holy water and censed as we sing and the procession moves to the east.*

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;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.    CF Alexander 1818-95

### **The Greeting** *The president says*

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

*The final candle of the advent wreath is lit by a child and the president says:*

I bring you good news of great joy: **a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born, **unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. **We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness** *The Deacon says*

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.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flock to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

*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 and the altar is censed.*

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.*

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 Reading** *Isaiah 52.7-10 Please sit.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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**

## **Hymn** (HCFC p234)

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 to-night.

2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

## **The Gospel Acclamation and Reading** John 1.1-14

*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 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.**

## **The Sermon** *Please sit.*

## **The Creed** *Please stand.*

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** *Please sit.*

*At the end we say Amen.*

## **The Peace** *Please stand.*

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**

*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 p194) *During this hymn a collection will be taken.*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Glory to God! On earth be peace,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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 the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

## **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*

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 Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*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.*

## The Agnus Dei *Please sit. The choir sings*

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

## Communion Anthem *Wexford carol (arr. Sarah Quartel)*

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done  
In sending his beloved son

2 With Mary holy we should pray,  
To God with love this Christmas Day  
In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

3 Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep  
To whom God's angels did appear  
Which put the shepherds in great fear

4 With thankful heart and joyful mind  
The shepherds went the babe to find  
And as God's angel had foretold  
They did our Saviour Christ behold

5 There were three wise men from afar  
Directed by a glorious star  
And on they wandered night and day  
Until they came where Jesus lay

6 And when they came unto that place  
Where our beloved Messiah lay  
They humbly cast them at his feet  
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.

7 Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done  
In sending his blessed child, beloved son

## **Communion Hymn** (HCFC p304) *We remain seated.*

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Christ the Saviour is born.

3 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.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

## **Prayer After Communion** *The president prays*

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.**

## **Hymn** (HCFC p226) *Please stand.*

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...*

4. 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...*

5. 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.

## **The Blessing and Dismissal** *The priest prays*

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

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.**

*The Deacon says*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**Glory, thanks and praise to God. Amen.**

## **Organ Voluntary** *Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci júbilo'* (J.S. Bach)

*Please remain standing while the servers, choir and clergy depart. We remain seated quietly until the Organ has finished playing and the recording is ended.*