



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Gossops Green and Bewbush

# Christmas Day

*This church is fitted with an induction loop system. Please switch your hearing aid to 'Two beeps' (T)*

*Please respond with the words that are printed in **bold print***

OPENING HYMN *John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

**1. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**2. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this;  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**



**3. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**

*We are gathered together...*

† 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 Christmas Candle on the Advent wreath is lit and we pray  
together:*

**Lord Jesus, light of light, you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest. Amen**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self interest and lack of vision.  
Christ have mercy.  
**Christ have mercy.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE GLORIA © 1983 Mike Anderson

***Gloria, (clap) gloria, (clap) in excelsis Deo.***  
***Gloria, (clap) gloria, (clap) in excelsis Deo.***

- 1** Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us;  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we sing our song of praise.
- 2** Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God;  
you take away our sins, Oh Lord, have mercy on us all.
- 3** At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer;  
for you alone are the Holy One, and you alone are Lord.
- 4** Glory Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

*Please sit for the reading* Isaiah 9.2-7

*After the reading...*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God .**

*Stand to sing the GRADUAL HYMN* Vv 1&2 unknown (19<sup>th</sup> C) V3 J. T. McFarland c.1906

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

THE GOSPEL – LUKE 2.1-14

*We sing...Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia*

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

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

## THE SERMON

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH *Please stand if you are able*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

## THE PRAYERS

*The response to 'Lord, in your mercy' is...hear our prayer.*

*At the end of the prayers we say together: Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

## 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.

*(We share a sign of peace with those nearest us)*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Traditional English Carol*

**I saw three ships come sailing in  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
I saw three ships come sailing in,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

**2. Pray whither sailed those ships all three  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three  
on Christmas day in the morning?**

**3. Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

**4. And all the bells on earth shall ring  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
and all the bells on earth shall ring,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

**5. And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
and all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

**6. And all the souls on earth shall sing  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
and all the souls on earth shall sing,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

**7. Then let us all rejoice amain  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
then let us all rejoice amain,  
on Christmas day in the morning.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.  
And 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**

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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come up to receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN *P Brooks (1835-1893)*

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

2. O morning stars together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on 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.

*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**

**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**

### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.....

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

### CLOSING HYMN George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848 – 1934)

**1. Ding dong! Merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
is riv'n with angels singing.  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! (2)***

**3. Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime you ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song , ye singers.**

**2. Een so here below, below, below  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
and io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.**

**4. Ding dong! Merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
is riv'n with angels singing.**

*Common worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishop's Council 2000. Common Worship: Additional Eucharistic Prayers, material from which is reproduced above, is copyright © The Archbishop's Council 2012. Material from New Patterns of Worship is © The Archbishop's Council 2002. Calamus Licence Number 95 CCL Licence Number 078543*

