



# Welcome to St Alban's Church Christmas 1

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OPENING HYMN *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**1. Joy to the world! the Lord has come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
Your sweetest songs employ.  
While fields and streams and hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

**3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
The wonders of His love,  
The wonders of His love,  
The wonders, wonders of His love.**

*We are gathered together as one body*

† 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.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year,  
let us seek his grace, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:  
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**

#### 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 (The special prayer of the day)

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61.10-62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE GOSPEL Luke 2.15-21

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

## THE SERMON

### THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

*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.**

### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### THE EUCHARIST

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 in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 **BVM** 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.**

**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.**

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

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.  
In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire  
to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help our church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our 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**

Jesus, Lord of time, **hold us in your eternity.**

Jesus, image of God, **travel with us the life of faith.**

Jesus, friend of sinners, **heal the brokenness of our world.**

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow, **draw us into your future. Amen.**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing ...

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

**CLOSING HYMN** *Traditional English*

**1. The first Nowell the Angel did say  
Was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
In a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

**2. They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued, both day and night.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

*Nowell, nowell...*

4. This star drew nigh to the North West;  
O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest.  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Nowell, nowell...*

5. Then enter'd in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offer'd there, in his presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

*Nowell, nowell...*

6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Nowell, nowell...*

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