



Welcome to St Alban's

Gossops Green and Bewbush

Christmas Day



OPENING HYMN *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

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!

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!

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, the wonders of His love.

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

**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)

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**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9.2-7

*After the reading...*This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL - LUKE 2.1-14

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

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

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

Let us bring before God the needs of the world in our prayers.

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.

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 say 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 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.

**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.

COMMUNION HYMN *Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Prayers 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 *Charles Wesley (1743), George Whitefield (1753),*

**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*

**Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

**Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;**

