



Welcome to St Alban's

Gossops Green and Bewbush

Christmas Day

OPENING HYMN *Charles Wesley (1743), George Whitefield (1753)*

**1. 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 the virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

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

**3. 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;
mild he lays his glory by,**

**born that we 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.***

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 *Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

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**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God .**

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.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³And suddenly there was with

the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
14 '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

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Frederick Oakley (1820-1880)*

**1 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:**

**3 Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:**

**4 Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

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.

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

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