



# Welcome to St Alban's Church

## Midnight Mass

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

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.***

*We pause for the blessing of the crib.*

Let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas crib, and on ourselves, that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share the salvation he accomplished.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who has made heaven and earth.**

God of every nation and people, from the beginning of time you have shown your love: When our need for a saviour was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

Bless this crib † and all who look on it. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise our thoughts to him who is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

*We continue to sing...*

**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 heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen 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.***

† 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.**

My sisters and brothers as we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.  
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness. 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, 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.***

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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.**

#### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Isaiah 52. 7-10

New Testament: Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]

*At the end of each:* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

#### GRADUAL HYMN *Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

**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.**

THE GOSPEL *Please stand if you can*

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

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

John 1.1–14

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

THE SERMON

THE CREED *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 OF INTERCESSION

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

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

The response to 'Lord, have 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. Amen.**

#### THE PEACE *Please stand*

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace in all whom He delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERTORY HYMN *Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

#### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

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

**Blessed be God forever.**

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 on this night 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 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.**

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.  
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**

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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 here. Anyone may come and receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN *Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)*

**1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.**

**2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him –  
give my heart.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

*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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of the 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 *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:  
*O come let us adore him...*

3. 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...*

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

*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*



A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

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