



Welcome to St Alban's

on Christmas Day

OPENING 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...

† 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.**



We sing:

**Light the Christmas candles now!
Sing of donkey, sheep and cow.
Birthday candles for the King -
Let the 'alleluias' ring!**

***Candle, candle, burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

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.**

GLORIA

All sing

***Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns;
peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth. (Repeat)***

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
*Glory, glory...***

**Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy, mercy on us. Have mercy, mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the Father,
receive, Lord, receive our prayer. Receive, Lord, receive our prayer.
*Glory, glory...***

**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, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.
*Glory, glory...***

Amen, 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.****

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11–14

After each reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL 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.**

THE GOSPEL

We sing...Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Luke 2.1-20

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

We sing...Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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: **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

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 *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.**

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:

We sing **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and God of might:
Heaven and earth, heaven and earth
are full of your glory, your power and might.
*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heavens.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heavens.***

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

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.

We sing **Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come;
Lord Jesus come in glory
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heav'ns!
*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heav'ns!***

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.
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.**

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

We sing **Jesus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us;
Jesus, Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;
Jesus, Lamb of God bearing all our sin;
Have mercy on us, give us your peace.**

All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion here. Anyone may come up to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN *Verses 1&2 unknown (C19), v3 J. T. McFarland*

**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.**

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 of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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!**

**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, the wonders of His love.

May God bless you
at Christmas and always



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