



## Order of Service

# Midnight Mass

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Sunday 24 December 2024, 11.30pm

Presider: **The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam**

Preacher: **The Revd Dr John Barker**

*Our church services are recorded and streamed on our website. You may be filmed during the service, and pictures of you may be transmitted online and as mobile content. By entering the church you consent to such filming and to the transmission of any broadcast. If you do not wish to be filmed please speak to one of the welcome team who will direct you to an unfilmed area in the north aisle.*

## **WELCOME**

**to all who are joining us today, whether in church or online.**

For those with children you will find space in the north aisle where you will be able to see and participate in the whole service. You will find some activity sheets to enable you and any children you have brought with you to engage with our service. Please ask one of our friendly welcomers if you need anything before or during the service.

We will be taking a collection during the service, and we encourage those who are UK tax payers to use one of the gift aid envelopes which are available in the pews. This will increase the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to you.

You can also make a debit/credit card donation to All Hallows by using the donations machine at the back of the church, by using the QR code on your phone, or via our website at [www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate](http://www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate)

**Thank you.**



### **Security Notice**

We advise you not to leave personal belongings unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. Do not leave bags on the floor by your feet, and make sure you take any valuables with you when you go up to receive Communion. For additional safety and security, 24 hour CCTV recording is in operation on these premises.

**Music Before the Service**  
*Cantique de Noel* – Adolph Adam  
Organist: David Cook

**The Gathering**

*Please stand.*

**Hymn**

**On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.**

**When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place,  
when sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
angels and saints with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.**

**All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night,  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men,  
now and forevermore. Amen.”**

Luke Wadding (1628-1691)

**Welcome and Introduction**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction are said.*

## **Lighting of the Christmas Candle**

*The final candle on the Advent wreath is lit and the following prayer is said:*

What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

**All The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

## **Prayers of Confession**

*Please sit or kneel.*

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on  
earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - migh - ty God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a -  
- way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us; you are  
sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther, re - ceive our  
prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -  
- lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the glo - ry of God the  
Fa - - ther. A - - - - - men.

## The Collect

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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9.2-7 *read by: Sarah Alder*

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated for **The Psalm: 96** sung by: Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam

To - day a Sa - viour has been born to us,  
he is Christ\_ the Lord.\_\_\_\_\_

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
tell out his salvation from day to day. **R/**

Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods. **R/**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him. **R/**

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.  
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.  
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; **R/**

To - day a Sa - vour has been born to us,  
he is Christ the Lord.

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;  
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.  
For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;  
with righteousness he will judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth. **R/**

**Second Reading: Titus 2.11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and face the Gospel for the* **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2.1-20**

Al - le - lu - ia! Your words, O Lord, are spi - rit and life.  
Al - le - lu - ia! O - pen our hearts to your word.

Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.  
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

**All Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.  
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.**

Today a Saviour is born who is Christ the Lord.  
God's word is with us and lives among us within our world.

**All Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.  
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.**



The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

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

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

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

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*Please sit.*

## **The Sermon**

The Revd Dr John Barker

## **Christmas Meditation**

*O little town of Bethlehem* – Gordon Phillips

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

**Prayers of Intercession** *led by Revd Dr John Barker*

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

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

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Offertory Hymn**

*During the next carol a shared collection will be taken for the Bow Foodbank who offer food and emergency items to people in crisis in Tower Hamlets, and the Amos Trust, who are supporting health services impacted by the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza.*

*If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews. Please mark your donation 'Christmas Appeal'. OR you can also use the donations machine at the back of church today. Thank you.*

**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.**

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

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

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

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

Latin (18th century) *tr* Frederick Oakely 1802-80

## **The Preparation of the Table**

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 Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **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 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might, —  
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na  
 in the high - - - est. Bles - sed is he who  
 comes in the name — of the Lord, Ho -  
 - san - na in the high - - - est.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
 and according to your holy will,  
 these gifts of bread and wine  
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
 who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
 took bread and gave you thanks;  
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
 he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
 he gave it to them, saying:  
 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us so we pray:

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

*All* **Lord, give us this bread always.**

*Communicant members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Holy Communion at All Hallows. All others may come forward for a prayer of blessing - please indicate this by bowing your head.*

## **Music During Communion**

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine – Keith Chapman*

## **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.**

*All* **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.**

## **Notices**

### **The Dismissal**

*Please stand.*

## **Hymn**

**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 a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
Hail, the incarnate deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King.**

**Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace:  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man 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.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

## **The Blessing**

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

*All* **Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

### **Music after the Service**

*Final on "Adeste Fideles" – Marcel Dupré*

***Please join us for festive refreshments after the service.***

### **Christmas & New Year Opening Times**

After our Christmas Day service the church will be closed until we re-open at 8.00am on Thursday 2 January, when normal opening and service times will resume.

## **NOTICES**

### **Christmas Day Eucharist, 11am**

Join us at 11am this Christmas morning for our Parish Sung Eucharist, as we continue to celebrate Christ's coming into the world.

### **Christmas Collections**

This year the collections at our two carol services, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services will be supporting the **Bow Foodbank**, who offer food and emergency items to people in crisis in our local area, and the **Hygiene Bank**, supporting local people in hygiene poverty.

If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes available in church. Please mark your donation 'Christmas Appeal'. If you use the donations machine, please email [parish@ahbtt.org.uk](mailto:parish@ahbtt.org.uk) with the amount and time the donation was made.

*The Team at All Hallows*

Curate .....The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam  
Associate Priest .....The Revd Dr John Barker  
Parish Administrator ..... Michael Griffiths  
Education & History Officer ..... Adey Grummet  
Director of Music ..... David Cook  
Churchwardens ..... Ken Marshall & Di Robertshaw  
Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ahbtt.org.uk) ..... Siobhán Martin



**All Hallows by the Tower  
with St Dunstan in the East**

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