



# Order of Service

## **The Holy Innocents**

---

Sunday 28 December 2025, 11am

President and Preacher: **The Revd Nicol Kinrade**

# **WELCOME**

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

All Hallows is a member of Inclusive Church and we are delighted you have joined our worship today. Please ask one of our welcomers if you need any assistance 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.

*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.*

# The Gathering

## Welcome and Introduction

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction are said.*

## Prayer of Preparation

*All* **Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## Prayers of Confession

On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives,  
let us stand before our just and holy God,  
and remembering the violence and injustice of our world,  
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

*All* **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**

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
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.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31.15-17

*Read by Howard Redgwell*

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears;  
for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated for* **The Psalm: 124**

If the Lord himself had not been on our side,

**All now may Israel say;**

If the Lord had not been on our side, ♦

**All when enemies rose up against us;**

Then would they have swallowed us alive ♦

**All when their anger burned against us;**

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us

and the torrent gone over our soul; ♦

**All over our soul would have swept the raging waters.**

But blessed be the Lord ♦

**All who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

Our soul has escaped

as a bird from the snare of the fowler; ♦

**All the snare is broken and we are delivered**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, ♦

**All who has made heaven and earth.**

**Second Reading: I Corinthians 1.26-29**

*Read by John Price*

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

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

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.13-18**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Never despise these little ones;  
their guardian angels in heaven look continuously  
on the face of my heavenly Father.

*All* **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now after the Magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Revd Nicol Kinrade

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand.*

**All 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 Kate Price*

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

‘I will comfort you,’ says the Lord, ‘as a mother comforts her child,  
and you shall be comforted.’

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### The Preparation of the Table

Pour upon the poverty of our love,  
and the weakness of our praise,  
the transforming fire of your presence.

*All* **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,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
In love for our fallen human race,  
you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.  
In his life  
he rejoiced in the innocence and beauty of children;  
in his death  
he carried in his body the violence and cruelty of our world;  
in his resurrection  
he brought life and salvation to his people  
and began the new creation.  
As our ascended and merciful high priest,  
he hears our cries and knows our grief;  
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.  
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:

*All* **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.  
o this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*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 this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*All* **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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*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.*

## Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

*All* **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.*

## The Blessing

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you.**

God, who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,  
sustain you, keep you and console you,  
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 to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

## **Notices**

---

### **Christmas and New Year services and opening**

All Halls will be closed over the remainder of the Christmas and New Year break.

The next service will be the Sung Eucharist on Sunday 4 January at 11am – we will be celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany.

We will open for visits and regular weekly services on Monday 5 January at 8am.

## ***The Team at All Hallows***

---

Vicar .....	The Revd Nicol Kinrade
Associate Priest .....	The Revd Dr John Barker
Parish Administrator .....	Michael Griffiths
Education & History Officer .....	Adey Grummet
Director of Music .....	David Cook
Churchwardens .....	Di Robertshaw & Robert Stichbury
Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ahbtt.org.uk) .....	Sarah Alder

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

Byward Street, London, EC3R 5BJ

Tel: 020 7481 2928 Email: parish@ahbtt.org.uk

Registered Charity no 1129137

ahbtt.org.uk @allhallowstower facebook.com/ahbtt



For your convenience, this church has an induction loop system.

Hymns reproduced in accordance with CCLI Licence 557772 and One License A-631897

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Printed on 100% recycled paper as part of All Hallows' Eco Church commitment