

Sunday 4th January 2026 at 9.30am

THE GATHERING

Hymn

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

The ministers are at the crib for the Preparation.

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

Amen.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!
**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you.

The president welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

We are invited to confess our sins.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.
Amen

Gloria in excelsis

We sing:

**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

The president invites us to pray:

Let us pray, grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh.

All pray silently; the president gathers up our prayers:

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 *Pew Bible (O.T) p.700*

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Hymn

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Come and worship

Christ the new-born King.

Come and worship

worship Christ the new-born King.

**Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:**

Come and worship ...

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12 *Pew Bible (N.T) p.190*

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (*continued*)

**Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
ye have seen his natal star:**

Come and worship ...

**Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:**

Come and worship ...

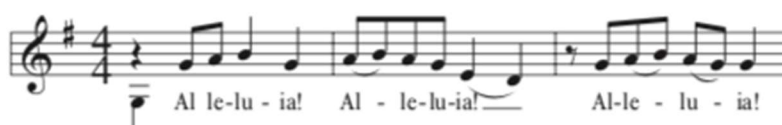
**Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:**

Come and worship ...

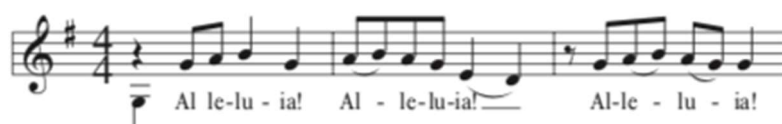
Remain standing for the Gospel.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

Remain standing.



Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations:
and believed in throughout the world.



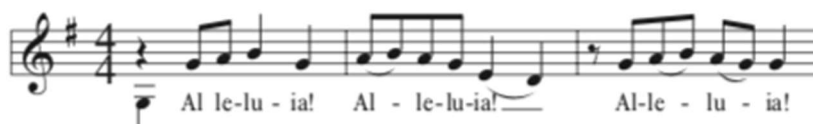
The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon

All sit.

A short silence is kept at the end of the sermon.

The Creed

All 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit.

*The intercessions include the
response:*

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end:

Merciful Father:
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand.

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of
peace there shall be no end.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The Epiphany Procession

Hymn

**The first Nowell the Angel did say
was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
*Born is the King of Israel.***

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued, both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
*Born is the King of Israel.***

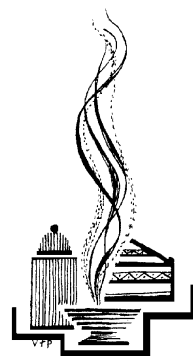
**And by the light of that same Star
three Wise Men came from country far,
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the Star wheresoever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
*Born is the King of Israel.***

**This Star drew nigh to the North West;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
*Born is the King of Israel.***

**Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
*Born is the King of Israel.***

In the procession, gifts are carried to represent the offerings of the wise men:

- for '**gold**', the bread and wine of the Eucharist, symbolising our wealth, the fruits of the earth and the fruits of our work;
- **incense**, to symbolise our worship and prayer;
- and for '**myrrh**' the oils of healing, to symbolise our sharing in the sufferings of Christ and of his world.



The gifts are presented at the altar before the final verse of the hymn:

At the offering of Gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of Incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of Myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The final verse of the hymn is sung.

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.***

The Eucharistic 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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world,
that all the nations may be brought out of darkness
to see the radiance of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and singing:

**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;
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 [N 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.

Amen.

All kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as
our Saviour has taught us.

**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**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

As the bread is broken, we sing:

**Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world;
grant us peace.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Giving of Communion

Before the distribution the president says:

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



Please come to Communion as directed by the stewards. Those who are communicant members of other Christian churches are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion with us. Those adults and children who are not ready to receive communion are invited to come to receive a blessing. It helps us to identify those who are not receiving Holy Communion if you bring this service sheet in your hand.

During the Communion, the choir sing the anthem "As With Gladness, Men of Old" by John Lewis and then we all sing:

Hymn

**Earth has many a noble city;
Bethl'hem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.**

Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
Gold the King of Kings proclaimeth,
Myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.

Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad Epiphany,
unto thee with God the Father
and the Spirit glory be. Amen

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour of all the nations:
may we who with the Wise Men
have beheld the glory of your presence
discern the radiance of your Son,
even Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

THE DISMISSAL



Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!

The Blessing

May God the Father, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light of Light, lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill our lives
with his joy and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing ...

The Dismissal

Christ is revealed to all creation.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers and people depart.



Please join us in the Centre for refreshments

To donate to All Saints online please hold your mobile phone camera over the code, follow the link to your browser and follow on-screen instructions.



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