



 **St. Mary's Church**
SAWSTON

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In the name of Christ
whose birthday is today
we welcome you:
grace mercy and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Carol

- 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:
- 3 See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps :

4 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above :
glory to God
in the highest :

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given ;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing :

Adeste, fideles, (Latin, 18th century) translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 78.

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE COLLECT

**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.**

WE LIGHT THE FINAL ADVENT CANDLE

Joy to the world!
The Lord has come!

The central candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing: Advent candles tell their story
on this Christmas Day.
Those who waited for God's glory:
they prepared the way.
Christ is with us: loving, giving,
in us living,
here today!

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING – Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL

- 1 See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore —
the Prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came!*
- 2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!
- 3 Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.
- 4 Mine are riches, from your poverty;
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Michael Perry (1942–1996) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 82 Words and Music: © Mrs B. Perry / The Jubilate Group. Administered by The Jubilate Group, www.jubilate.co.uk Used by permission.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-14

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

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

TALK

THE CREED

**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

WE SHARE 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.

CAROL

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 thy 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.

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 79

We remain standing

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
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.

The Eucharistic prayer continues until:

... we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with **Amen**.

We sit or kneel and keep a moment's silence

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BREAKING OF THE 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down
from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The ministers receive communion. Please remain in your place and the ministers will distribute communion, in the form of bread only. You are welcome to receive communion if you do so in your own church. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your hands folded in front of you and bow your head.

CAROL DURING COMMUNION

- 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.

Author Unknown *Little children's book*, Philadelphia, 1885 Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 60

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.**

FINAL CAROL

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.*

- 2 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.
- 3 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.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and others Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 66

BLESSING

May the joy of 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you, and all who you love, this Christmas and always.
Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

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