

HOLY TRINITY  
HEADINGTON QUARRY



*The First Eucharist of Christmas*

# Welcome!

**C**hristmas is a celebration of the God who comes among us as the Word made flesh. Incarnation means that God has entered into all that it is to be human: our pain and our failures, as well as our joys and achievements. This service celebrates, and reflects on, Christ's coming into the world to bring God's light, life and love.

This service is a Eucharist (the word means *thanksgiving*), also known as the Mass or Holy Communion. It is the festal meal of the church, a foretaste of heaven. All are welcome to receive communion or to come forwards for a blessing instead. Gluten free wafers are available – if possible, please let one of the stewards know before the service if you require one.

Please join in the responses printed in **bold**. We hope you will feel welcome here and that you will encounter the peace and joy of Christ.

## Carol

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.

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.

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.

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!

*Words: Phillips Brooks 1835-93*

*Tune: Forest Green English trad. melody, arr R Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

## The Gathering

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
Heaven in earth, and God in man.  
Great little One, whose all-embracing birth  
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

*Richard Crashaw 1614-49*

*The president says*

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

## The Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends in Christ, as we meet to celebrate  
the birth of the holy child,  
let us pray that God will bless this crib;  
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,  
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation: + bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of Penitence**

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.

*Silence is kept*

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.**

May the God of all healing draw you back to himself,  
+ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh, and be restored in his image,  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*(Melody: Angels from the Realms of Glory)*

**Glory be to God in heaven  
Peace on earth to all we sing  
Heavenly king, Almighty Father  
Worship, thanks and praise we bring.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,  
Lamb of God, our sins you bear.  
Seated in the Father's glory,  
Grant us mercy, hear our prayer.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**You alone, O Christ, are holy;  
You the Lord most high alone,  
Jesus, with the Holy Spirit,  
Reigning on the Father's throne.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo**

## **The Collect**

*Please remain standing*

Let us pray in the peace of this holy night  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

*Silence is kept*

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**

### **Isaiah 52. 7-10**

How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"  
Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.

When the Lord returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.  
Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.

*Isaiah 52.7-10*

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Through all the earth, goodwill and peace  
from heaven's all-gracious king!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife  
the world has suffered long  
and, since the angels sang, have passed  
two thousand years of wrong:  
the nations, still at war, hear not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise and cease the strife,  
to hear the angels sing!



And those whose journey how is hard,  
whose hope is burning low,  
who tread the rocky path of life  
with painful steps and slow:  
O listen to the news of love  
which makes the heavens ring!  
O rest besides the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on –  
by prophets seen of old –  
towards the fulness of the time  
when comes the age foretold:  
then earth and heaven renewed shall see  
the prince of peace, their king;  
and all the world repeat the song  
which now the angels sing.

### **Gospel Reading**

*The reader says*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,

**All      and we have beheld his glory. Alleluia!**

*When the Gospel is announced*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **John 1.1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*At the end*

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

## Sermon

Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott

## Affirmation of Faith

*Please stand*

Let us affirm our faith in the God who dwells in our midst.

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 God the Father.**

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 God the Son.**

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 God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

God of incarnation,  
your angel host announces  
that peace has been born among us, embodied in frail flesh.

With confidence in the power of that miracle,  
we bring before you our prayers  
for the church and the world. Let us pray.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds'  
fields may be realised on every field of war  
and on every street of violence:

**Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

That the Prince of Peace may guide this nation and all  
nations in the ways of justice and of peace:

**Lead us in the paths of righteousness and mercy.**

That the child born in Bethlehem may wake us by his crying  
so that we might act lovingly in this suffering world:

**Open our hearts to the needs of the poor.**

That in this time of giving, we may become more responsive  
to the abandoned, the despairing, and those who mourn:

**Make our lives a gift of hope to all.**

That the hope we celebrate this night  
may be the fulfilment  
of all who have gone before us in faith,

**Give your faithful people a share of your life,  
O Christ, for all eternity.**

*A time of silence is kept for our own prayers.*

Light of life, you came in flesh,  
born into human pain and joy,  
and gave us power to be your children.  
Grant us faith, Lord Jesus Christ, to see your presence  
among us, so that all creation may sing new songs of  
gladness and walk in the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*Please stand*

### **The Peace**

This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Please remain in your place, and share the peace with those around  
you with a smile or bow or wave.*

### **Carol**

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay!  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we had gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
a holy angel came;  
the shepherds saw the glory  
and heard the voice proclaim  
that Christ was born in Bethlehm –  
and Jesus is his name: *O tidings...*

The shepherds at these tidings  
rejoiced in heart and mind,  
and on the darkened hillside  
thy left their flocks behind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this holy Child to find: *O tidings...*

And when to Bethlehem they came,  
where Christ the infant lay,  
they found him in a manger  
where oxen fed on hay;  
and there beside her new-born child  
his mother knelt to pray. *O tidings...*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all people in this place;  
with Christian love and fellowship  
each other now embrace,  
and let this Christmas festival  
all bitterness displace: *O tidings...*

*Traditional, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century  
adapted by Jubilate Hymns*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

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.**

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,  
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:

*(Tune: See amid the winter's snow)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and of might.  
All of heaven and earth are full  
Of your glory, Lord most high.**

**Sing hosanna to the Lord,  
Sing hosanna to our God.  
Let us join creation's praise;  
Let us now our voices raise.**

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 blessed Mary 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.**

### **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.**

### **Agnus Dei**

*(tune: The first Nowell)*

**O Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us**

**O, Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
O grant us your peace.**

### **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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Christ is the bread  
which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread for ever.**

*As the priest receives the bread and wine, please say 'Amen' if you wish to receive communion. All are welcome to come forwards for communion. If you would prefer a blessing please do come forwards too and hold onto this booklet to indicate this. Please follow the directions of the steward and follow the one-way system back to your seat.*

**Carol:** In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk  
and a manger full of hay;  
enough for him whom angels  
fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,

but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the Belovèd  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
if I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him,  
give my heart.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

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 forever. Amen.**

## Carol

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...*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps: *O come...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *O come...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing: *O come...*

## **The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the magi,  
the love 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 remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*, and *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006.  
Produced under CCL 234208.

***We wish you all a Holy and Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year!***

**Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**

*An open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God's love to all.*

As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. Our church is open every day. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

Laura Biron-Scott (Vicar)

[vicar@hthq.uk](mailto:vicar@hthq.uk) 01865 762835

Rob Gilbert (Associate Priest)

[associatepriest@hthq.uk](mailto:associatepriest@hthq.uk)

Parish Office: 01865 762931 [office@hthq.uk](mailto:office@hthq.uk)

Website: [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)

**Supporting our work:** We no longer pass the collection plate round at services, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church, please use the collection plate or the contactless machine on your way out. Your generous support is much appreciated.