

HOLY TRINITY  
HEADINGTON QUARRY



*Christmas Day Communion Service*

*Words of welcome*

## **Opening Hymn**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

## **The Greeting**

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

**Now the word is made flesh  
and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,  
**and now we see you as a new born child.**

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

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*We light the central candle to remember Christ, light of the world.*

**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!**

## Prayers 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.

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**

## *The President says*

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

## The Gloria

Ding dong, merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing  
Ding dong, verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angels singing.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
By priest and people sungen.  
*Gloria ...*

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rhyme  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
*Gloria ...*

## 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**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9.2, 5-7**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

## Hymn

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.

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.

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

## Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.  
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.  
**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**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!'

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

## **Sermon**

*Please sit.*

## **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The response is used:*

Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

### **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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of Peace.*

### **Hymn**

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.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1894)*

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

*The president takes the gifts and prays:*

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.**



It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life. (*Bells are rung*)**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all. (*Bells are rung*)**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**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 Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel*

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.**

## **The Breaking of 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.**

*We say*

**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.**

### **Giving of Communion**

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

*All are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forwards holding this service booklet. Please follow the directions of the steward and make your way back to your seat following the one-way system.*

### **Communion Hymn**

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Listen now to what we say,  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now!  
Christ is born today;  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Hear the news of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this:  
he has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blessed for evermore!  
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save:  
come at his most gracious call  
to find salvation, one and all!  
Christ was born to save;  
Christ was born to save!

*In dulci jubilo*  
Latin and German, 14<sup>th</sup> century  
adapted by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

### **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 deed;  
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.**

### **Hymn**

O come all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
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 ...*

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, let us adore Him ...*  
Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore Him ...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
*O come, let us adore Him ...*

## **The Blessing**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

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***We wish you all a Holy and Happy Christmas  
and a Blessed and 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:

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**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.