

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry



All-Age Nativity Service

17th December 2023

The Gathering

Words of welcome

Hymn 78

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;

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Adeste Fideles, Latin, 18th century
translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Gathering Prayer

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

**Lord Jesus, as we gather in your name
to sing your praise,
to hear your story,
and to receive your gifts,
fill us with your love,
your peace and your joy.
Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle on the Advent Wreath.

Advent 3: John the Baptist

**John the Baptist by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for our Lord'.**

After the candle is lit:

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light
Jesus is the light of the world
A light no darkness can ever put out.

Receiving God's Forgiveness

The coming of Christ brings hope and healing to our world.
As sisters and brothers in God's family,
we come together to ask God's forgiveness.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

The God of all mercies forgive you your sins,
and pour upon you the healing spirit of love, peace and
gentleness. **Amen.**

The Collect - A Prayer for the Day

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit

The Nativity Story

*Christmas is a time when we remember how Jesus, God's son, was
born in a stable in Bethlehem. This morning we are going to tell the
story of Jesus' birth together...*

Hymn

I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside
And all the lights of town were shining far below
When up in the air beautiful voices
Sing a new song, let everyone know,

*Oh and love shone down
over the hills and over the valleys,
Oh and love shone down over the world*

Somebody spoke to me, I knew it was an angel
He said there's something that I think you ought to know.
Then he just smiled, said don't be afraid now.
Sing a new song, let everyone know

And then he told me all about the baby Jesus,
How to find him where exactly I should go.
Then he was joined by millions of others
Sing a new song, let everyone know

Well did I dream or was I really on that hillside
On that Christmas night so very long ago,
When he was born Jesus our Saviour
Sing a new song let everyone know

Chaz de Whalley and Andy Piercy

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on 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:

God of love
Hear our prayer.

We conclude our prayers with the Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

This week we also hold in our prayers:

We pray for those who are sick or in particular need:

*Natalia Stoneman, Naomi Lawrence, Tim, Kate Samuel,
Grace, Josie, Kitty Datta, Bob Southgate, Benji,
Astrid Brooke, Caroline Winwood, Penny Champion.*

Those who have died recently:

*David Prince, Iris Kemp, Carol Morgan, Janne Goble, Peter Keen,
June Masters.*

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

*John Whitwick, Lillian Collier, Frederick Butler, Susan Webster,
Frances Arnold, Elizabeth Rivington, Phyllis Harvey, Jane Smith,
Stuart Douglas.*

The Peace

Please stand

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called 'Children of God'".

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 79

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 the Bread and Wine Prayer

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

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 always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us
and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.
You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

**Blessed, blessed, blest the one who comes;
Blest the one who comes in the Lord's name.
Blessed, blessed, blest the one who comes;
Blest the one who comes in the Lord's name.
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

Bells are rung

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Bells are rung

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel

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 this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We repeat the chant a few times:

**Jesus Christ, bread of life
those who come to you will not hunger
Jesus Christ, risen Lord,
those who trust in you will not thirst.**

Taizé Community

Giving of Communion

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

This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the steward and follow the one-way system back to your seat. Those sitting towards the back will be invited to come forwards first. If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. The chalice is being administered from the Lady Chapel step. If you wish to receive the chalice, please hold the base of the chalice and guide it towards your lips – the person administering the chalice will not let go of it in the process. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread). If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.

Hymn 60

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the night sky
Look 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 forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

Author Unknown 1885

Prayer after Communion

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and
worship you
now and always.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

Hymn 82

Please stand

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.
*Oh, 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.*

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!
Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

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.
Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

Calypso Carol, Michael Perry (1942-1996)

The Blessing

May the joy of the 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,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

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

Please do join us for refreshments in the Coach House via the Quarry Road path. Please take this booklet away with you, and recycle it when you have finished with it. We no longer pass the collection plate around during the service, but you are welcome to use the collection plate at the back of church, or the contactless machine, if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church. If you would like to sign up to regular monthly giving, please visit www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church for more information.

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Notices: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent with Nativity and Carol Services

8am Holy Communion

10am All- Age Eucharist celebrating together the birth of Jesus

6pm Joint Carol Service at All Saints Headington

Midweek Services

Morning Prayer: Monday and Tuesdays at 9am in the Coach House **until December 19th** and will resume on Monday **January 8th**.

Eucharist Service: Wednesdays at 10am. We intend to continue meeting in the church building, but there will be no post-service refreshments.

Sunday 24th December: 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

8am Said Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

2.30pm, 3.30pm & 4.30pm Christingle Services

11.30pm Midnight Mass *Please note this service will be live streamed.*

Upcoming Christmas Services:

Tonight at 6pm Joint Carol Service at All Saints Headington Revd Emily will be taking this service and our choir and congregations will join together for this special service of lessons and carols for Christmas, at All Saints Church, Lime Walk, Headington. There will be refreshments after the service.

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day

8am Said Communion

10am Family Eucharist *Please note this service will be live streamed.*

Sunday December 31st: First Sunday after Christmas

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

Housekeeping matters during the building work: Please kindly note that toilet facilities are available at the Coach House, and the vestry is now strictly out of use. Seating is more restricted inside the church - please be considerate when choosing a pew, and allow space for latecomers if possible (**please consider filling up from the front!**). The back pews are reserved for children and families attending Sunday school. In the event of an emergency, fire exits are at the main church door and the chancel door. As the colder months approach please remember to wrap up warm when you come to church. With the north aisle boxing we don't have the full benefit of the church heating. Fleece blankets are available from the welcomers if needed!

2023: A time to build We are so grateful that the building work is progressing smoothly and to plan! Although the church will look and feel quite different over the coming months of building work, we remember that we have laboured for a very long time to bring these plans to fruition, and we all look forward in faith and hope to the completion of the works in 2024. Please continue to hold the project in your prayers. As the psalmist writes: 'unless the Lord builds the house, those who labour build it in vain' (Psalm 127.1). We ask you all to pray especially for wisdom for our architect and contractors, and for peaceful relations with our neighbours and local residents affected by the work.

God of vision and hope,

we thank you for our church building;

a place of prayer and pilgrimage,

witnessing to your love and presence in our midst.

We pray for our plans to develop the building

to further the work of your kingdom in this and future generations.

We pray for the guidance, resources and skills we need

to bring the project to completion,

and that we would be united in vision and focus

as we work towards this goal,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Cornerstone. Amen.

Project Finance Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising campaign, and to everyone who has supported the process with their prayers. We are still fundraising for the project and welcome pledges, donations, and contributions towards the project. If you would like to make a donation directly into our building fund account, the details are:

Account name: HTHQ

Sort Code: 20-65-20.

Account no: 83117634 (Please include your name as a reference)

Christmas Charity Collections As we approach the Christmas season we encourage you to give what you can to support our four PCC charities - the Archway Foundation, the Oxfordshire Homeless Movement, Christians Against Poverty, and Wateraid UK. The PCC is not able to meet the donation budgeted for in 2023 from our current funds, and we are making a Christmas Charity appeal to reduce the shortfall. Collections will be taken at all services from December 17th through to December 31st. (Please note that the Christingle Services on Dec 24th will support the Children's Society as usual. If you're not able to attend services during this time please feel free to make a donation directly to the charities and if you would like to include this in our HTHQ total just let the Parish Office know.

Carol Singing Come and join us for a Pilgrimage around the Parish, singing well known Carols around Quarry on Dec 20th and Risinghurst on Dec 22nd 4.30pm – 6pm. We will start at Holy Trinity Church or URC Collinwood Road at 4.30pm.

Welcome to Andrena. Many of you will know Andrena Palmer who is the outreach worker at Collinwood Road United Reformed Church. Andrena recently trained as a Church Army Evangelist which is a special form of lay ministry linked to the Anglican church. As part of her ministry, Andrena will be working on some midweek ecumenical projects between our two churches, and will be around very occasionally on Sundays too. Andrena will receive her from the Archdeacon of Oxford at the **10am Eucharist service on Wednesday 3rd January.** Please come along to support her!

Asylum Welcome food crate has been removed from the Porch and its return will be announced in the notices.

Pathways Magazine The latest edition of Pathways (Diocesan Magazine) is available to take away at the back of church.

New Bible Study Group Do you find studying the Bible on your own difficult? I know I do, I feel God is leading me to start a Bible Study group in my home in Headington. If you are interested and want to know more please contact me: margaretatbodsey@gmail.com or 01865 761718. I look forward to hearing from you, Margaret Jackson.

Eco Resources List: To view the Autumn recommended resources go to: <https://www.hthq.uk/eco-church-resources/>

Eco Tip of the Week: More about food hygiene; while preparing food for Christmas and dealing with left-overs, label all frozen foods. If freezing fresh food, write the date you froze it on the package so you can track how many weeks or months you've kept it. Hilary Rollin for Eco Church Group)

Pastoral care team Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers overleaf) or Helen Day, Janet Masters, or Anne Tarassenko.

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:

Contact us

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