

Holy Trinity
Headington Quarry



First Sunday of Christmas
31st December 2023

Organ Prelude: *The Shepherd's Lullaby* by Andrew Moore.

The Gathering

Words of welcome. Children are welcome to join us in the service today as there is no Forest Sunday school taking place.

Hymn 86

Please stand

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's 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!

Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay: *Nowell...*

At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense: *Nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood our life has bought: *Nowell...*

Cornish carol, possibly 18th century
adapted by Michael Perry (1942-1996)

The president says

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

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

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**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through 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

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
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

First Reading: Galatians 4. 4-7

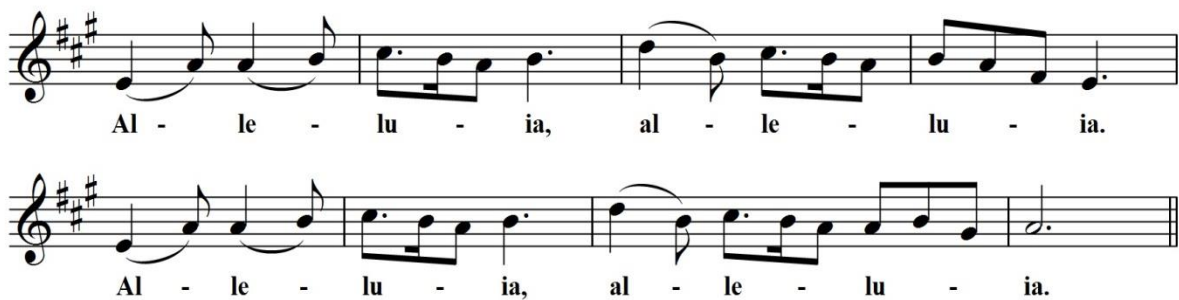
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Gospel Reading

Please stand. We repeat the refrain.

CELTIC ALLELUIA



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

Gospel reading: Luke 2.15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Revd Anne Kiggell

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand.

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

Please sit or kneel.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

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:

Kathleen Bishop, William Lockett, Ivy Sloper, Rosemary Hill, Nancy Rowlinson, Henry Sheldon, Jeremy Herklots, Rosemary Whitman, Ronald Head, Bryan Roberts.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand

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.

Hymn 64

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 Bethlehem –
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 18th century
adapted by Jubilate Hymns*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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

Please sit or stand as you are most comfortable.

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,
and 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.

Great is 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 the blessed Virgin 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

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.**

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.**

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. With the North aisle inaccessible, you will be directed down and back up the central aisle. To make this as smooth as possible, please allow everyone in your pew to come out before queueing. Those sitting towards the back on each side will be invited to come forwards first.

If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. 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 65

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, 14th century
adapted by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly
home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

Hymn 72

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 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

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
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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Organ Postlude: *Choral Fantasia on 'Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern'* by Dietrich Buxtehude.

Notices: Sunday December 31st - First Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist *NB no Forest Service today*

Midweek Services

Morning Prayer: 9am Monday to Thursday will resume on Monday January 8th).

Midweek Communion: Wednesdays at 10am

Sunday Jan 7th: Feast of the Epiphany

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.

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 licence from the Archdeacon of Oxford at the **10am Eucharist service this Wednesday 3rd January.**

Julian Group. The January meeting will be on **Friday 5th January at 2.30 pm at 3 Barton Road, Headington.** We meditate for half an hour on a passage provided by one of us and then discuss it before having a social time with tea/coffee and biscuits. New members are very welcome. Please contact me for further details: **Sheila Allcock 01865-769630**

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

Eco Tip of the Week: Continuing to think of our precious wildlife, check that birds have access to fresh water, and that it has not frozen. Make sure that the bird feeders are stocked, that no food put out for them could fall to the ground and encourage undesirable visitors. (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

Vicar: Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott
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Associate Priest: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert
associatepriest@hthq.uk

Curate: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex
curate@hthq.uk 07979 931889

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