

HOLY TRINITY
HEADINGTON QUARRY



The First Eucharist of Christmas

December 24th 2020, 6pm

Welcome!

Christmas 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, and the priest will bring communion to you in your pew. Gluten free wafers are available – if possible, please let one of the stewards know before the service if you require one. If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, please hold onto your service booklet to indicate this.

Please join in the responses printed in **bold**. We sit for the majority of the service. We are very sorry that communal singing is not permitted at present, but we hope you will enjoy hearing members of our choir singing some familiar carols.

We hope you will feel welcome here and that you will encounter the peace and joy of Christ.

Choir 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

(Organ Melody: Angels from the Realms of Glory)

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.

Choir Carol

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight through all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Gloria in excelsis deo
Gloria in excelsis deo

Shepherds, in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Gloria in excelsis deo
Gloria in excelsis deo

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 Prof Rob Gilbert

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 bow or wave.*

Please sit.

Choir Carol

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: E H Sears 1810-76

Tune: Noel English traditional melody

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:

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.

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.**

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 you receive communion. We will bring communion to you in your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, please hold onto this service booklet and the priest will pray a blessing instead.

Choir Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

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.

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

Choir Carol

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 ...

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

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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 ¹¹_{SEP} for every local resident. We do not ask if people come to church or not but we are here to help, listen, and support people in many ways.

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 are unable to take a cash collection at this service, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church, please use the contactless machine on your way out, or visit www.hthq.uk to make a donation online. Your generous support is much appreciated.