

st JOHN's

Living God's Love



Parish Eucharist
for Christmas Day

Welcome to St John's, Harpenden

If you are visiting the church today or have recently begun worshipping with us then please introduce yourself to one of the ministry team or welcomers

There is a retiring collection after this service. We are asking for donations using the contactless card scheme. A card reader is available as you leave the church. Thank you



There is an Induction Loop in the church, for those using a hearing aid



Large print orders of service are available on request Please ask a welcomer



If you require a **gluten free** communion wafer, please let a welcomer know before the beginning of the service



StJohnsAL5

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



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WELCOME AND NOTICES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 78 O Come all ye faithful (omit verse 4 &5)

**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:**

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

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:**

PRAYER AT THE CRIB

The president says

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

Lord, by the song of the angels
you disclosed your birth to your own people,
and by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you now,
and to make you known to all.
Amen.

we continue singing

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

THE GATHERING

The president says

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

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

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

PRAYERS AT THE ADVENT WREATH

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.
Amen.

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENTIENCE

The deacon introduces the confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Please kneel or sit

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Please stand

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.**

**Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, Heav'nly King,
almighty God and Father.**

**We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.**

**Lord, Jesus Christ,
only son of the Father.**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;**

**You are seated at the right hand
of the Father, receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.**

**For you alone are the Holy one,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
in the Glory of God the father.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest!**

THE COLLECT

The president says

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that
our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept

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

Sit for the OLD or NEW TESTAMENT READING

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated for the GRADUAL HYMN or PSALM

THE GOSPEL READING

Stand and turn to face the Gospel.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the ALL AGE TALK

Stand for THE CREED

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

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?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

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

INTERCESSIONS

Please kneel or sit. The intercessions are led by a member of the congregation

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand for 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

During which the altar is prepared.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The president takes the bread and wine and says

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which
earth has given and human hands have made. It will become
for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of
the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please remain standing for the first part of the eucharistic prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory. You give us
this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to
cherish.

You give us your Son,
born of Mary, born as one of us, as a new
light in this dark world,
so we can become lights of your Kingdom.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different, to join with
the angels and say your 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**

Please kneel or sit as the president continues the prayer

We thank you, loving Father, because, when
we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows
us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when
darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my
body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is
my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the
forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you
feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like
Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look
forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
John the Baptist, Alban and all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, the power and the
glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The president says

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The president and people receive communion.

If it is your tradition you are warmly welcomed to receive communion.

A Gluten free wafer is available.

If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward carrying this booklet with you

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

A hymn or anthem may be sung

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

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
deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen

Please stand for the FINAL HYMN

Please remain standing for 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 us and remain with us
this Christmas time and always.

Amen

SENDING OUT

The deacon says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

The ministers and people depart

***As you celebrate this
season with joy,
we wish you, and all
your family and
friends, a very Happy
Christmas!***

***Please join us in the
Hall for celebratory
refreshments.***

