

The Parish Church of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



Christmas Day
25th December 2023

10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for Christmas Day

The setting for today's Mass is Addington

People of all denominations who are in good standing with their own church are welcome to come and receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar carrying this order of service.

Please let clergy or a churchwarden know at the beginning of the service if you need a gluten-free host.

5 minutes before the service begins, a bell will ring to signal that a period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use this prayer.

**Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.**

**Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.**

**Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.**

Amen

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

Parish Giving

It costs us at least £2,000 per week to carry out our ministry, mission and basic maintenance of this lovely building. One off cash donations can be made in the box in reception just by the entrance door into church. Contactless payments can be made using our free-standing contactless giving machine located in church. It is also possible to donate using our QR code which links to a safe and secure 'Give a little' payment portal which is compliant with GDPR, PCI & PCI-DSS.

1. Open your phone camera 2. Scan the QR code 3. Click the link displayed 4. Donate



The Gathering

Hymn (24)

**Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born.
Rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son**

**Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice: 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations upon earth.
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word;
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'**

**He spake, and straightway that celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang.
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
'Peace upon earth and unto men goodwill.'**

John Byrom (1691-1763)

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

Amen.

The Greeting

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

Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, 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 day
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.

Amen.

Today Christ is born:

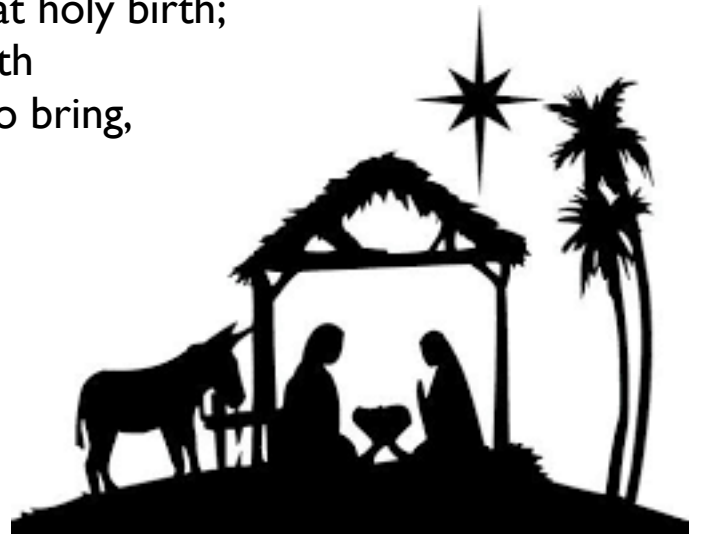
Alleluia. God is with us.

Today the Saviour has come:

Alleluia. He has come to set his people free.

Today the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.



Invitation to confession

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.

cf Malachi 4.2

Prayers of Penitence

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed, self-interest and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our lack of vision and our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

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 - Addington

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

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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.
Amen.**

The Collect for Christmas Day

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.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.

6 **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

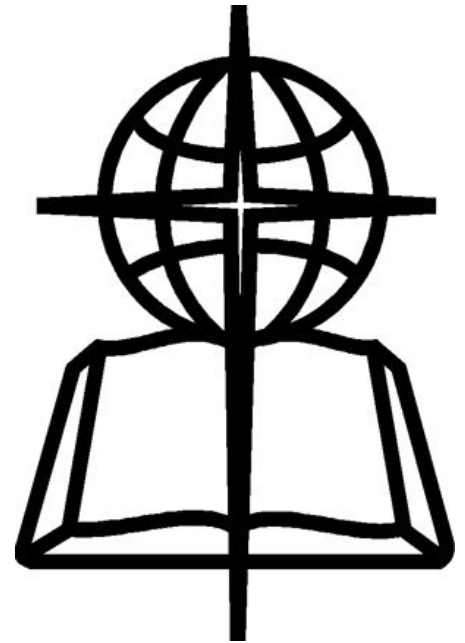
Second Reading Hebrews 1.1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Alleluía

Gospel Reading

John 1.1-14

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

We pray for your blessing upon our church,
for all who minister in this Benefice,
and for our bishops, Nick and Tony.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

We pray for peace throughout the world,
especially remembering the Holy Land and Ukraine.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities
that the light of your love may shine across Pontefract.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer
your gift of wholeness and peace.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Joe; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Janis Gallagher; Mary Sambrooks;
Linda Sambrooks; Bill Bradley; Brian Ward; Cath Godridge; Rhys Williams;
Angela Hyomes; Owen Murray; David Murray; Andrew Leach; Janet Hickling;
Jenny Attwood(Priest)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Jesus, Saviour of the World,
you give us the gift of everlasting life:

We pray for those who have recently died:
Pat Steele

and those whose year's mind falls at this time:

George Robert Hyomes; Gordon David Bellamy; David Atkins.

May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
full of the Spirit,
**hear our prayer,
receive our praises,
fill our lives. Amen.**

Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

The fifth and final candle of the advent wreath is lit, and then the following is said:

**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.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6

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.

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn (30)

**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:**

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...

Latin 18th Century, Tr. Frederick Oakeley
and others

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.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name.
for our good
and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray

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.

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:

***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.***

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of The Blessed Mary, St Joseph, Giles
and all the saints may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and 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.**

Agnus Dei - Addington

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

Hymn (22)

**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.**

Anonymous Philadelphia 1883; v.3 J T McFarland (c1906)

Anthem - In the bleak mid-winter (Harold Darke:)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

**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.**

Notices are given.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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.

Hymn (26)

**Hark! The herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.'**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

**Hark! The herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!'**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Hark! The herald-angels sing...

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.**

Hark! The herald-angels sing...

Charles Wesley, (1707-1788) and others

Go in the Peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

The clergy and people depart.

Organ Voluntary

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