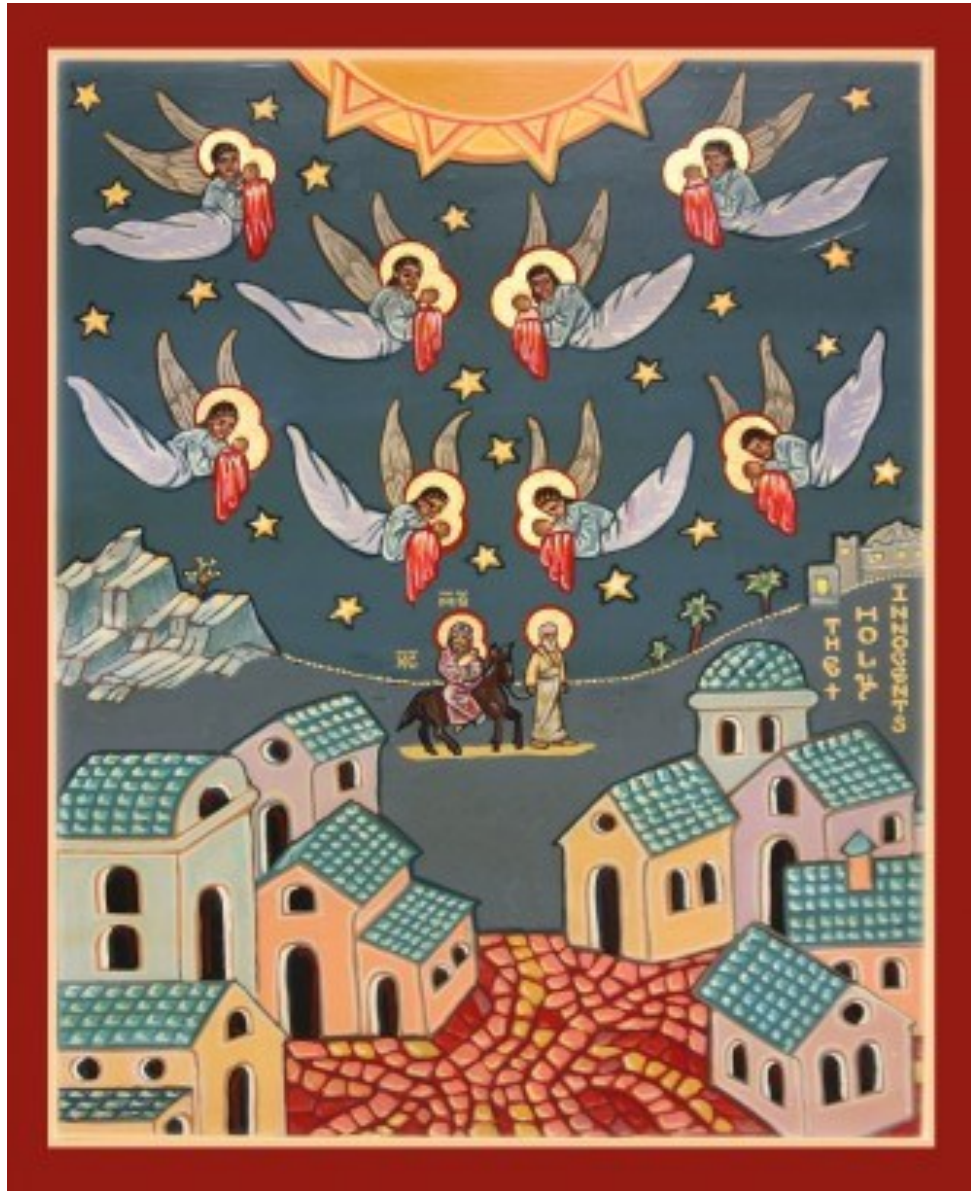


The Parish Church of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



The First Sunday of Christmas
31st December 2023, 10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for the First Sunday of Christmas

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.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
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 (39)

**Unto us a Boy is born!
King of all creation,
came He to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was He
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that He all men surpasses.**

**Herod then with fear was filled:
'A Prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
And all the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury.**

**Now may Mary's Son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder.**



Latin, C15th; tr, Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

†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.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

Invitation to 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.

cf Matthew 1.21

Prayer of Penitence

Jesus, name above all names,

forgive us our lack of reverence and awe in your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, name of our salvation,

forgive us our attempts to live in our own strength.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, name of life and healing,

forgive us our sins and offences.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May God who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**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 First Sunday of Christmas

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

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 Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.15-21

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

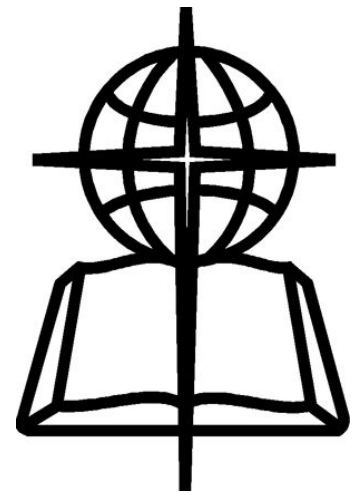
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.



Sermon

The 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.

A Prayer for the Benefice

Faithful God,

**During this vacancy, fill us with vision and joy
and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship.**

Guard and grow our church as we serve you together.

**Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith,
love one another, care for those in need,
reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.**

**Sustain those in interim leadership,
and bless our next Vicar as he prepares to join us.**

**Ever-living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
may we see your kingdom come here in Pontefract,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Joe; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Joe & Mark; 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); Margaret Kidger.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Pat Steele

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Reginald Gibbens; Patricia Jenkinson; Evelyn Sarah Leigh; Gladys Worrell;
Charles William Chapman; Francis Leslie Schofield.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours.

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 (28)

***In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.***

***Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain.***

***Heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign.***

***In the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.***

***Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay:***

***enough for Him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.***

**Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
throngèd the air;
but only His mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved
with a kiss.**

**What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him -
give my heart.**

Christina G Rossetti (1830-1894)

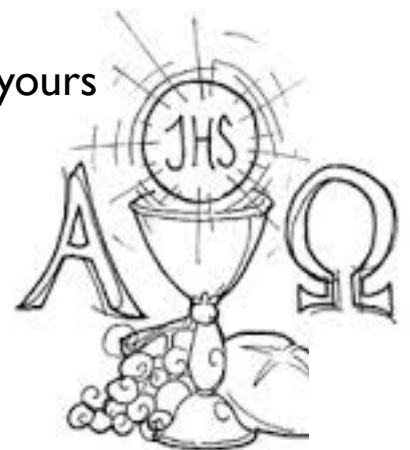
Taking of the Bread and Wine

Jesus, true joy of loving hearts,
we turn unfilled to you again.
Come and be known to us in the breaking of the bread.
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

Please be seated.

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,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise you that on the eighth day

he was circumcised in obedience to the law of Moses,

that he might fulfil the law and reveal to us your grace and truth.

For here is foreshadowed

his perfect self-offering upon the cross,

the shedding of his blood to set us free from sin and death.

In baptism we die with him and are raised in him,

that we might walk in newness of life,

and proclaim the wonders of his saving name.

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 Our Lady, 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

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
So we are bold to pray in the words our Saviour taught us:

Galatians 4.4,5

**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 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

**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.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The clergy and people receive communion.

Organ Voluntary

Hymn (32)

**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 to-night.**

**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 (1835-1893)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

**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

Notices are given.

Acclamation

You will name him Jesus;
he will save his people from their sins.

He will be great;
he will be called the Son of the Most High.

He will be called Emmanuel:
God is with us.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The clergy and people depart.

Organ Voluntary



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