



The Parish of Peasedown St John

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

11.30pm - Christmas Eve 2011

Welcome/Notices

Carol - In dulci jubilo, translated by John M Neale (1818–1866)

1 Good Christian men, rejoice He hath open the heavenly door,
With heart, and soul, and voice! And man is blest for evermore.
Give ye heed to what we say: Christ was born for this,
News! News! Christ was born for this.

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.

3 Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one, and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.

2 Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this.

Prayers of Penitence

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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

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**

The collect for Christmas Day

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 forever. **Amen.**

First Reading – Matthew 1:18-25

[18] This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.[20] But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”[22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23] “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”— which means, “God with us.”[24] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

Carol

1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

2 'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laudand honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 1 starting at the 26th verse **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of

Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

The President and people receive 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.**

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 forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

We stand for the Blessing and Dismissal

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go now, redeemed in love, renewed in faith, restored in strength, and refreshed in spirit. Return to your journey of discipleship, in the name of the risen Christ who goes before you. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn

Hark, the herald angels sing
"Glory to the new born King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconcile

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
Glory to the new born King.*

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 will die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.*

David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will over-shadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month of her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Talk – What is God calling you to do? - *Matthew Street*

Creed - (From Philippians 2)

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself, and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Carol

1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign: *Chorus*

3 Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high: *Chorus*

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb: *Chorus*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God, and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia', the earth replies: *Chorus*

Wishing you a Happy Christmas

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we thank you for this season of Christmas - for all it has meant to so many over the years, all it continues to mean to us, and all it will mean in generations to come. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for carols old and new, for familiar and much-loved words of Scripture, for all that speaks of your coming among us in Christ. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for reunions with family and friends, for the spirit of giving and receiving, for the mood of goodwill and celebration. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for all the good things we will enjoy good food, good company, good fun. You have given us so much, **receive our praise.**

Loving God, help us in all of this to keep sight of the heart of Christmas, what it all really means- to celebrate the birth of the infant Christ, to worship him as joyfully and reverently as shepherds and wise men long ago, to welcome and follow him as faithfully as those who left everything to be his disciples. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Loving God, forgive us if we have lost sight of what this season truly means. Forgive us if we have become over-familiar with its simple yet wonderful message. Forgive us if we have failed to make room for Christ in our Christmas celebrations. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Speak to us now through all that we shall do and share, all we shall sing and hear, so that our lives may be touched by the wonder of his presence, you have given us so much, **receive our praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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 a sign of peace to those around us.

Eucharistic Prayer H

We sit or kneel for the Eucharistic prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us. **He**

opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray using the words our Saviour 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, forever 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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you, eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of