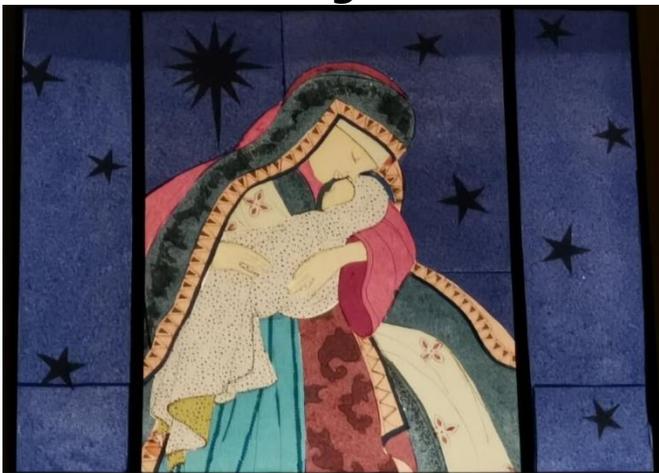


The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Christmas Day 2020 Live-streamed Eucharist with Carols sung at home



Today we especially rejoice to be gathered not only at home but also in one of our church buildings. Please note that current guidance does not permit the singing of carols in the church building – those at home, please sing loudly for those in the church building who can't (you will still be muted!).

The gathering

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things." Today we hear the good news that the Word of God is born into the world and lives among us. He reveals the light and glory of God and proclaims that all who believe in him are given the power to be children of God. So let us lift up our voices, rejoice and, with the whole of creation, sing God's praises.

**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.'

To Beth'lem straight the enlightened
shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,
and found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

John Byrom (1692-1763)

The greeting

✠ 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.

I bring you good news of great joy:
a saviour has been born to you. Alleluia
Unto us a child is born
unto us a son is given. Alleluia
He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia
We worship and adore him. Alleluia

Lighting of the Advent Candle

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines,
All creation bows to the Lord of all
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God,
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people shout: **Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen

The Act of Penitence

God sent his Son into the world in order
that the world might be saved by him.
Trusting in God's love for us and his
promise of forgiveness to all who are
truly sorry, let us confess to him the
darkness in our lives and ask him to
lighten that darkness through his Son,
Jesus Christ, who is the true light of the
world.

When we turn away from your light to
follow our own selfish ways,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

When we forget our need of your grace
and rely on our own efforts,
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

When we fail to reflect in our lives the
light of your truth and love,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you ✕ your sins and make you holy to
serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen**

Gloria

**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 the 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

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

First reading Isaiah 52:7-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The prophet Isaiah proclaims a message of good
news: good news of peace and redemption and the
salvation of God which will be seen by all peoples.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]

The angels come bringing news not to the rulers and powerful of the time, but to Shepherds.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and

family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of faith

**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.

*If possible, kneel (or bow) at the following three lines
as we honour the Incarnation – God stooping to
earth to become human.*

**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 bring our prayers to God our heavenly
Father, who loves us enough to send his Son into
this world to lighten our darkness and to heal our
brokenness.

*At the end of each bidding the following
response is used*

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth

And at the end

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, St Joseph, St Thomas, St Chad, and all the
angels and saints, we commend ourselves and
the whole creation to God's unfailing love as we
pray

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 sacrament

The Peace

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet
of the messenger who announces peace, who
brings good news, who announces salvation."
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.

Offertory Prayer

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, 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his
command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine ✠
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our
Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and
heaven,
we worship you. Father almighty,
with songs of everlasting praise:

**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...
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to the eternal Father through Jesus,
the prince of peace.

**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

The priest 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.**

An act of Spiritual Communion

*Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated
elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present
in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say these
words*

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

Those in church are invited to receive communion in one kind only. When you remove your mask, please ensure you wash your hands before and after receiving. Please do not say Amen when the host is given to you. As people in church receive, an organ voluntary will play.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer after communion

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.

The dismissal

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they
lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Refrain:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!**

Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell...

At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense: *Nowell,
nowell, nowell, nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood our life has bought: *Nowell,
nowell, nowell, nowell...*

*Anon, arranged by
Michael Arnold Perry (1942-1996)*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God the Father who created all things
assure you of his love and mercy.
Amen

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the living Word of
God, walk alongside you and reveal to you his
glory.
Amen

May the Holy Spirit empower you to live as a
child of God, full of grace and truth.
Amen

And the blessing of God almighty, ✠
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Proclaiming the Word made flesh, go in the
peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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