

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
*The First Sunday of Christmas*  
*New Year's Eve*

خوش آمدی

Welcome to Holy Innocents.

*This leaflet contains all you need to join in the service. Words **in bold print** are spoken or sung by all. Hymns are not announced. For visitors, Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please be still and quiet before the service as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist.*

*When the bell rings, please stand to join in:*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her king;**

**Let every heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing**

**And heav'n and nature sing,**

**and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!**

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat the sounding joy -**

**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,**

**and makes all nature prove**

**the glories of his righteousness**

**and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders, wonders of his love**

*The preacher and president today is the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth. Please remain standing for the greeting and act of penitence.*

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

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Eucharist begins with a short act of penitence and reconciliation:*

God's love for us is revealed in the Son, born to share our human nature and to redeem us all. This is eternal love, flowing clear like a stream to the sea:

**Cleansing every heart  
that would be free from sin.**

This is the love that binds the whole world, breaking down barriers:

**It lays low the hills and shakes the mountains.**

This is the love given freely and generously to all:

**The pearl of great price  
and the treasure of heaven.**

May the Lord in his mercy grant us pardon and peace, free us from sin and lead us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**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:** the prayer for this Sunday

*Let us pray.*

*After a moment of silent prayer the president says the Collect.*

*At the end: **Amen.***

*Please sit down for the Ministry of the Word.*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

*At the end: This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 148

Glory to God above! Heavens declare his love;  
praise him, you angels, praise him all you high  
and heavenly host.

Worship him, sun and moon;  
stars, complement their tune;  
grounded in God's good purpose  
let his grace become your boast.

**O sing hallelujah  
and praise God for evermore!**

Glory to God below let depth of ocean show;  
lightning and hail, snow wind and cloud  
perform at his command!

Let every mountain range,  
forest and grove and grange,  
creatures of earth and air and sea  
praise God in every land.

'Glory to God!' now sing commoner, queen  
and king; women and men of every age unite  
to praise the Lord. Worship God's holy name  
and let your lives proclaim  
God's saving power extends  
to those who love and serve his word.

## SECOND READING Galatians 4.4-7

But 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.

*At the end:* This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please STAND for the Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us  
And we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

## GOSPEL READING Luke 1.15-21

*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.**

*At the end:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit down for the sermon. After the sermon  
there will be a time of silence. Then all please  
STAND with the president for the Creed:*

We believe in God the Father,  
**from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son,  
**who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
**who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

*Please remain standing for the Prayer of the  
Faithful . After each section:*

Lord in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,

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

*The president introduces THE PEACE:*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of  
peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All exchange a sign of peace and then join in:*

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord descending,  
in his temple shall appear:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him,  
every knee shall then bow down:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*The bread and wine are brought to the altar. The president says a prayer over the gifts to which we all respond:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER follows.*

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.**

*THE PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking God for his saving works, and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven:*

.....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.**

*The president asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and cup. ....Great is the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*The president continues, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself. At the end:*

....we worship you, Father almighty, in songs  
of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The President introduces the Lord's Prayer and all say together:*

**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.**

ی پدر ما که در آسمانی، نام تو مقدس باد، ملکوت تو  
بیاید. اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است، بر زمین نیز کرده  
شود. نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده. و قرض های ما  
را ببخش چنانکه ما نیز قرضداران خود را می بخشیم، و  
ما را در آزمایش میاور، بلکه از شریر ما را رهایی ده.  
زیرا ملکوت و قوت و جلالنا ابدالابد از آن تو است،  
آمین.

*We SIT or KNEEL as the president breaks the consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:*

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.**

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world, grant us peace.**

*The president addresses those who wish to come to Holy Communion:*

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the  
sins 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.**

*Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those who are baptized, and communicant members of other Christian churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing. When all have received Holy Communion there is a time of quiet. Then all please stand with the President.*

Let us pray.

*After a moment of silent prayer:*

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.**

*Please join in one of Charles Wesley's New Year hymns, to a familiar tune:*

**Come, let us use the grace divine,  
and all with one accord,  
in a perpetual covenant join  
ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
Give up ourselves, through Jesus' power,  
his name to glorify;  
and promise, in each sacred hour,  
for God to live and die.**

**The promise we this moment make  
be ever kept in mind;  
we will no more our God forsake,  
or cast these words behind.  
That God who knows us yet may hear  
the vows that we dare make,  
preserve our ways in holy fear  
inspired, for Jesus' sake:**

**The year whose arrows now have flown  
as new year rushes on:  
new tasks gives each to shoulder now  
until the work is done;  
to all the faithful, grace supply  
which takes our sins away,  
and register our names on high,  
and keep us to that day!**

*PLEASE SIT for the announcements then STAND for the blessing and dismissal.*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Eucharist
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1000 Foodbank
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> 1000 Sung Eucharist: Epiphany	

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***Meditation by the manger***

Beloved Heavenly Father, I behold the manger,  
your Son sleeping on the straw,  
in the midst of life, on a manger for animals.

Let your Son be incarnate once again,  
as once in Bethlehem,  
in our cities, villages, homes and hearts.

I behold his Mother, Blessed Virgin Mary,  
a young unmarried woman found pregnant.

Let your Son reveal your hidden love  
among all pregnant women  
and mothers of the world.

I behold faithful Joseph, who in the midst of great  
difficulties raises as his own the child of another.

Let the innocence of your Son give birth to love  
and trust, among all the doubtful and questioning.

I behold the shepherds, unclean menials,  
labouring in the night while others celebrate,  
unvalued and lacking dignity.

Let the incarnation of your Son testify  
to the immense worth and sanctity  
of every unique being created in your image.

I behold the Magi, people of other faiths coming  
from afar yet drawing near to worship  
and glorify you at your guidance.

Let the humility of your Son lead us to recognise  
your wisdom in the midst of all nations.

I behold the star, the bright messenger  
guiding us to kneel at the altar of this world  
to behold the human and the divine,  
in your only begotten Son.

Let your Son be incarnate once again  
as once in Bethlehem  
in our cities, villages, homes and hearts. Amen.

*Mika Pajunen*