

HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



The First Eucharist of Christmas
Thursday 24th December 2020

THIS LEAFLET contains all you need in order to join in the service. Please take it home with you afterwards. Apart from the final hymn, music is heard not sung. The president tonight is the Revd Jane Walker. PLEASE BE STILL AND QUIET BEFORE THE SERVICE as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist. The introductory dialogue to tonight's service is taken from a medieval Office for the day of the Nativity of the Lord.

When the bell rings please STAND and turn to face the back of the church.

The hymn begins:

**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.***

The ministers assemble in front of the gallery.

+ 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 president introduces the celebration.

*Dear friends in Christ, all who wait in hope
and watch for the morning, tell us, who do you seek?*

The Saviour Christ the Lord, the new-born child, as the angel told us.

He is here with Mary his mother, about whom the prophet Isaiah foretold:

Behold a virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son.

Let the angels sing out because he is born.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

For at last we know that Christ is born on earth,

let all rejoice, crying out with the prophet -

a child is born!

The hymn continues and the image of the infant Jesus is carried in procession to the crib:

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 us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald-angels sing, glory to the new born king!

Come, desire of nations come, fix in us thy humble home;

Rise the woman's conquering seed, bruise in us the serpent's head;

Now display thy saving power, ruined nature now restore,

Now in mystic union join thine to ours, and ours to thine:

Hark! the herald-angels sing, glory to the new born king!

**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, glory to the new born king!**

The president places the image in the crib and then blesses 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 night 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 the 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.*

After the prayer we hear:

**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 tonight

Let us pray.

After a moment of silent prayer the president says the Collect. At the end:

Amen.

PLEASE SIT for the Ministry of the Word.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52: 7-10

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings a setting of '*All my heart this night rejoices*'

خداوند ازلی، که این مقدس ترین شب را خلق کردی و با روشنایی نور راستین خود می درخشی: ما را فرا خوان، تا کسانی که وحی آن نور را شناخته اند، درخشندگی آن جلال آسمانی را ببینند؛ بواسطه فرزندت و خداوند ما عیسی مسیح، کسی که زنده است و با تو حکومت می کند، در وحدت روح القدس، خدایی یکتا، تا ابدالابد.

*All my heart this night rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;
'Christ is born,' their choirs are singing,
Till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.*

*Hark! A voice from yonder manger soft and sweet, now entreats,
"flee from woe and danger.*

*Turn to me from all that grieves you;
You are freed – all you need I will surely give you."*

*Come then let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small,
kneel in awe and wonder.*

*Love him, who with love is yearning;
Hail the star, who from far bright with love is burning.*

*Thee, O Lord, with heed I'll cherish – live to thee, and with thee dying shall not perish.
But shall dwell with thee for ever –
Far on high in the joy that can alter never*

SECOND READING Hebrews 1. 1-4 is read in Farsi.

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.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

Today a Saviour is born who is Christ the Lord.

God's Word is with us and lives among us in our world. Alleluia!..

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.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please SIT for the sermon. The preacher tonight is the Revd Richard Young. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. Then all please STAND with the president for the Creed: (an extract from the Athanasian Creed)

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ:

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God is both divine and human.**

God, of one being with the Father,

the only son from before time began;

human from the being of his mother, born in the world.

Fully God and fully human; one human person with mind and body.

As God he is equal to the Father,

as human he is less than the Father.

Although he is both divine and human he is not two beings but one Christ.

One, not by turning God into flesh, but by taking humanity into God.

Truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,

but by being one person.

For as mind and body form one human being,

so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

The PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL follows:

*Wonderful Counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations,
bless all who work for peace in the world that the hungry may be fed,
the humble lifted high..... Lord hear our prayer:*

And bring us your peace.

*Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders that
we may trust your promises and work together to reveal your glory in the world.....*

Lord hear our prayer.

And lead us in the way of truth.

*Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever, that the
weak and powerless may find protection and safety... Lord hear our prayer:*

And show us your mercy.

*Prince of peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace. Let us celebrate together in
joy and gladness..... Lord, hear our prayer.*

And keep in us the hope of everlasting life.

Almighty Lord,

Hear our prayer, and fulfil your purposes in us,

as you accomplished your will in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The president introduces the Peace:

*To us a child is born, to us a son is given: and his name is the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace, then please join in:

***It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old,
of angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth! Goodwill to all!" from heav'n's all-gracious king.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.***

***Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.***

***Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
where noise of warfare sounds above the love song which they bring –
O still the noise and cease the strife, to hear the angels sing!***

***For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold.
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the world its timeless splendours fling -
and the whole world give back the song, which now the angels sing.***

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:

..... singing 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 of the prayer the president says:

...all honour and glory be yours, Almighty Father, 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.**

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:

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven:

Lord, give us this bread forever.

Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those who are baptized, whether or not yet confirmed, as well as communicant members of other Christian churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion. (Children may prefer to receive only the consecrated bread.) Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing. During communion, we hear:

*Before the world began, one Word was there;
grounded in God he was, rooted in care;
by him all things were made, in him was love displayed;
through him God spoke, and said, 'I am for you'.*

*Life found in him its source, death found its end;
light found in him its course, darkness its friend.
for neither death nor doubt nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout, 'I am for you'.*

*The Word was in the world which from him came;
unrecognised he was, unknown by name;
one with all humankind, with the unloved aligned,
convincing sight and mind, 'I am for you'.*

*All who received the Word by God were blessed;
sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of Grace proclaim in time and space
and with a human face, 'I am for you'.*

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (born 1958)
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When all have received communion, there is a time of silent prayer.
Then all please STAND with the President.

Let us pray.

After a moment of silent prayer. ..

*God our Father,
tonight you have made known to us again
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
may our Christmas celebration 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, now and for ever. Amen.*

ای یهوه پدر ما،
که در این شب باری دیگر ما را
آگاه ساختی
به آمدن خداوندمان عیسی مسیح:
ایمانمان را به ایشان تثبیت کن و
چشمهایمان را به ایشان خیره کن
تا زمانی که سپیده بدمد
و مسیح به مانند ستاره صبح در
قلبهای ما به پا خیزد.
عظمت، از حال تا ابدالابد از آن

Please join in:

**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.....***

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.*

Amen.

*May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace;*

Amen.

*May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.*

Amen.

*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.



First Reading: Isaiah 53: 7-10

چه زیباییست پاهای پیک خوش خبری که از کوهستان می‌آید و خبر صلح و نجات را می‌آورد و به اسرائیل می‌گوید: "خدای تو سلطنت می‌کند!" دیده بانان از شادی با صدای بلند سرود می‌خوانند، زیرا با چشمان خود می‌بینند که خداوند دوباره به اورشلیم باز می‌گردد. ای خرابه‌های اورشلیم با صدای بلند آواز شادمانی سر دهید، زیرا خداوند اورشلیم را آزاد خواهد ساخت و قوم خود را تسلی خواهد داد. خداوند در برابر چشمان تمام قومها، قدرت مقدس خود را بکار خواهد برد و قوم خود را نجات خواهد داد تا همه آن را ببینند.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1.1-4

در زمانهای گذشته، خدا بوسیله پیامبران، اراده و مشیت خود را بتدریج بر اجداد ما آشکار می‌فرمود. او از راه‌های گوناگون، گاه در خواب و رؤیا، گاه حتی روبرو، با پیامبران سخن می‌گفت. اما در این ایام آخر، او توسط فرزندش با ما سخن گفت. خدا در واقع، اختیار همه چیز را به فرزند خود سپرده و جهان و تمام موجودات را بوسیله او آفریده است. فرزند خدا، منعکس کننده جلال خدا و مظهر دقیق وجود اوست. او با کلام نیرومند خود تمام عالم هستی را اداره می‌کند. او به این جهان آمد تا جانش را فدا کند و ما را پاک ساخته، گذشته گناه‌آلود ما را محو نماید؛ پس از آن، در بالاترین مکان افتخار، یعنی به دست خدای متعال نشست. به این طریق، او از فرشته‌ها برتر گردید. نام او نیز گواه بر این برتری است: "پسر خدا!" این نامی است که خدای پدر به او داده، و از نام و لقب همه فرشته‌ها بالاتر است؛

Gospel Reading John 1: 14

در ازل، پیش از آنکه چیزی پدید آید، "کلمه" وجود داشت و نزد خدا بود. او همواره زنده بوده، و خود او خداست. هر چه هست، بوسیله او آفریده شده و چیزی نیست که آن را نیافریده باشد. زندگی جاوید در اوست و این زندگی به تمام مردم نور می‌بخشد. او همان نوری است که در تاریکی می‌درخشد و تاریکی هرگز نمی‌تواند آن را خاموش کند. خدا یحیی پیامبر را فرستاد تا این "نور" را به مردم معرفی کند و مردم به او ایمان آورند. یحیی آن نور نبود، او فقط شاهدهی بود تا نور را به مردم معرفی کند. اما بعد، آن نور واقعی آمد تا به هرکس که به این دنیا می‌آید، بتابد. گر چه جهان را او آفریده بود، اما زمانی که به این جهان آمد، کسی او را نشناخت. حتی در سرزمین خود و در می آن قوم خود، یهودیان، کسی او را نپذیرفت. اما او به تمام کسانی که به او ایمان آوردند، این حق را داد که فرزندان خدا گردند؛ بلی، فقط کافی بود به او ایمان آورند تا نجات یابند. این اشخاص تولدی نو یافتند، نه همچون تولدهای معمولی که نتیجه امیال و خواسته‌های آدمی است، بلکه این تولد را خدا به ایشان عطا فرمود. "کلمه خدا" انسان شد و بر روی این زمین و در بین ما زندگی کرد. او لبریز از محبت و بخشش و راستی بود. ما بزرگی و شکوه او را به چشم خود دیدیم، بزرگی و شکوه فرزند بی‌ظن پدر آسمانی ما، خدا.

Of the Father's heart begotten ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain, all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created; he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body, frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation, by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour; let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful, let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.