

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Sunday December 27th 2020  
The Holy Innocents

آمدی خوش

Welcome to Holy Innocents on the feast day of the small children who were killed by Herod in his hunt for the infant Jesus after the visit of the wise men. Please be still and quiet as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist.

The president today is the Revd Richard Young.  
When the bell rings, please stand as we hear  
*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

*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:  
*Because they were found to be like the son of  
God, now these children can be found, like  
the Lamb, in eternal glory. Today we keep  
their feast day, remembering the innocents  
of the world and the gift of God himself to be  
amongst us. So, as we prepare to celebrate  
these holy mysteries, let us call to mind our  
own weakness and remember God's unfailing  
love.*

After a time of silent prayer the choir sings the  
*Kyrie Eleison. (Lord have mercy).*

At the end, the president says the absolution.  
*May almighty God have mercy upon us,  
forgive us our sins  
and bring 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** 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:** Jeremiah 31: 15-17

At the end:

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 124** to a traditional tune

***If the Lord had not been on our side,  
if the Lord had not been on our side -  
if the Lord had not been on our side:  
Alleluia! Sing praises to God.***

*Foes attacked us and their hatred could have  
swallowed us live;  
Raging torrents could have swept us away;  
Angry waters overwhelmed us,  
could have ended our days,  
if the Lord had not been on our side.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
who has spared us our lives,  
Who has snatched us from our enemy!  
Who has freed us from the snare  
like a bird set free:  
Alleluia! Sing praises to God.*

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 2: 13-18

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

**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. The preacher today is the Venerable Karen Lund. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. Then all please STAND with the president for 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.**

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

*Lord, in your mercy*

**hear our prayer.**

After the final section (for the departed) there will be a time of silent 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.

*Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.*

*The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

**And also with you.**

All exchange a sign of peace as we hear:

***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 all 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.***

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:

*.....forever praising you and singing:*

**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:

*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin 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 to receive communion under the form of bread only.

Those who are not baptised are asked to fold their arms for a blessing if they wish.

During communion we hear a setting of *The Coventry Carol* and *The great God of heaven*.

When all have received Holy Communion, what remains of the consecrated bread will be placed in the tabernacle for the communion of those at home and we hear:

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet  
head; the stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus!***

***Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender  
care, and fit us for heaven,  
to live with thee there.***

After a time of silence all please STAND with the President.

*Let us pray:*

*Lord our God, in your humility  
you stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received  
these gifts of your passion,  
rejoice in celebrating the witness  
of the Holy Innocents to your son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Please sit for the announcements  
and then stand for the blessing and dismissal.

*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.**

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The great God of heaven  
is come down to earth,  
His mother a Virgin, and sinless his birth;  
The Father eternal his Father alone:  
He sleeps in the manger;  
he reigns on the throne.  
*Then let us adore him,  
and praise his great love:  
To save us poor sinners he came from  
above.*

A Babe on the breast of a Maiden he lies,  
Yet sits with the Father on high in the skies;  
Before him their faces the seraphim hide,  
While Joseph stands waiting,  
unscared, by his side:

Lo! here is Emmanuel, here is the Child,  
The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;  
Whose power and dominion  
shall ever increase,  
The Prince that shall rule  
o'er a kingdom of peace:

The Wonderful Counsellor, boundless in  
might,  
The Father's own image, the beam of his light;  
Behold him now wearing the likeness of man,  
Weak, helpless, and speechless,  
in measure a span:

O wonder of wonders,  
which none can unfold:  
The Ancient of days is an hour or two old;  
The Maker of all things is made of the earth,  
Human, worshipped by angels,  
and God comes to birth: