

HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Wednesday 25th December 2024

Christmas Day

خوش آمدی

Welcome to Holy Innocents

PLEASE be still and silent as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist for the Nativity of the Lord. When the bell rings please stand to sing:

**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.**

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

I bring you good tidings of great joy: a Saviour has been born to you: Alleluia!

Unto us a child is born, a son is given. Alleluia!

As we kneel with the shepherds before the new-born Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith:

You, Lord, were born for our salvation. Lord have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

You came as a Saviour to bring wholeness and peace. Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says the absolution:

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

Glorify 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 Christmas Morning

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 9: 2-7 is read in Farsi

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shone.

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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97 vv1-6 *is said antiphonally, led by the choir.*

The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice;

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.

The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory.

SECOND READING Titus 2.11-14

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**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shone.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2.1-20

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 for the sermon. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. Then 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.

The president introduces THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Dear friends in Christ, as we gather to worship the Christ child,

let us pray with faith and trust to our heavenly Father.

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:

Father, in thankfulness we praise you,

and ask you to accept these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The president introduces the 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.

All exchange a sign of peace and then join in:

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.**

**'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to all - begin and never cease.'**

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 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.
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.**

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

Christ is the bread which has come down from heaven:

Lord, give us this bread for ever.

Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those who are baptized, as well as communicant members of other Christian churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing. During communion: Come to Bethlehem (Warlock)

Come to Bethlehem and see the newborn King,

come and lay your heart before him while you sing:

he, the God of earth and heaven, Lord of all lies within the manger of an ox's stall;

born of God, the Father in the bliss above, born a baby in a stable for our love.

Here, the Lord of all before our race began, loves to be and call himself the Son of Man;

holy Mary, virgin mother, gave him birth: see her meekly kneel before him on the earth.

Let us kneel with her and lovingly adore Christ, her son, our God and King for evermore.

When all who wish to have received holy communion, there is a time of stillness and quiet. Then all please STAND with the President:

Let us pray:

After a moment of silent prayer

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.

Please join in:

**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.**

**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.**

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

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas,
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.

A VERY HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE!

Our services this Christmas week continue on Sunday,
when we keep our patronal festival: The Holy Innocents.
Sung Eucharist: 1000.

The final poem in our Advent and Christmas series:

In the Days of Caesar *by* **Waldo Williams**

In the Days of Caesar, when his subjects went to be reckoned,
There was a poem made, too dark for him (naïve with power) to read.
It was a bunch of shepherds who discovered
In Bethlehem of Judah, the great music beyond reason and reckoning:
Shepherds, the sort of folk who leave the ninety nine behind
So as to bring the stray back home, they heard it clear,
The subtle assonances of the day, dawning towards cock crow,
The birthday of the Lamb of God, shepherd of mortals.

Well, little people and my little nation, can you see
The secret buried in you that no Caesar ever captures in his lists?
Will not the shepherd come to fetch us in our desert,
Gathering us in to give us birth again, weaving us into one
In a song heard in a sky over Bethlehem?
He seeks us out as word-hoard for his workmanship,
the laureate of heaven.

Hodie Christus natus est
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia.



Adoration of the Shepherds, School of Rembrandt van Rijn, c1650.

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