

HOLY INNOCENTS
FALLOWFIELD



Thursday 25th December 2025
Christmas Day
خوش آمدی
Welcome to Holy Innocents

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

**God rest you now, good Christians all,
let nothing you dismay;
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:**

*Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort
and joy, Oh tidings of comfort and joy.*

**From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name: *Oh tidings.....***

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship
each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
doth bring us all new grace: *Oh tidings....***

*The president today is the Revd Richard Young,
who introduces the service.*

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.

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

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 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. 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 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...**

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...

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. The preacher is the Revd Jane Walker. 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 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.

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:

HYMN 32

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: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 thine is the kingdom, the power and

the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ملکوت تو ی پدر ما که در آسمانی، نام تو مقدس باد، بر زمین نیز کرده بیاید. اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است، و قرض های ما شود. نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده. و را ببخش چنانکه ما نیز قرضداران خود را می بخشیم، ما را در آزمایش میاور، بلکه از شریر ما را رهایی ده. زیرا ملکوت و قوت و جلالنا ابدآباد 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 please join in: HYMN 42.

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 sit for any 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.

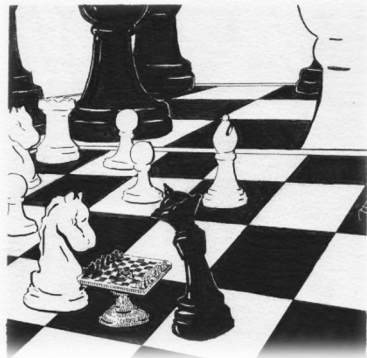
Amen.
Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

**Sunday December 28th:
The Holy Innocents
1000 Patronal Festival
Sung Eucharist**

A peaceful and blessed Christmas to everyone.

Tripping Over Joy by Hafez

What is the difference
Between your experience of Existence
And that of a saint?
The saint knows
That the spiritual path
Is a sublime chess game with God
And that the Beloved
Has just made such a Fantastic Move
That the saint is now continually
Tripping over Joy
And bursting out in Laughter
And saying, 'I Surrender!'
Whereas, my dear,
I am afraid you still think
You have a thousand serious moves.
Hafiz: translated by Daniel Ladinsky
1325 Shiraz Persia



RECTOR: The Revd Richard Young
ASSOCIATE PRIEST:
The Revd Jane Walker