

# Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Eve 2021, 11.30pm



“The word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us”

# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WITH ST. PETER, LEE

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*Welcome! This booklet should contain all the words you need to take part in this service. Please join in with the words in bold. The service leader will invite you to sit or stand at the appropriate time. Happy Christmas!*

## Opening Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**your birth at Bethlehem**  
**draws us to kneel in wonder**  
**at heaven touching earth:**  
**accept our heartfelt praise**  
**as we worship you,**  
**our Saviour and our eternal God.**  
**Amen.**

## **CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem**

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 tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men 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.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Gloria

**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.**

Collect for Christmas Night

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**First Reading** – Isaiah 9:2-7 p.695 *in the church Bibles*

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **CAROL In the bleak midwinter**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*We remain standing*

Today Christ is born:

**Alleluia**

Today the Saviour has come:

**Alleluia**

Today Christ is born:

**Alleluia**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you O Lord**

**Gospel Reading** – Luke 2:1-14 *p.1027 in the pew Bibles*

This is the gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon** - Revd Bridget Shepherd

### Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,**

**he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

### Intercessions

*We pray for the needs of our world*

### The Peace

This holy night the angels sang, ‘Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.’

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

## **CAROL Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

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.*

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 man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

## Communion Prayer

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks  
because in coming to dwell among us as man,  
he revealed the radiance of your glory  
and brought us out of darkness  
into your own marvellous light.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

**Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

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.**

**Jesus, lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*Communion is shared. All are invited to receive bread and wine, or a prayer of blessing. You'll be invited to come forward.*

### Prayer After Communion

God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
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 both now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **CAROL O come, all ye faithful**

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;  
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...*

### Blessing

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

**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 God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those whom you love,  
this night and always.

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

A retiring collection will be taken for the **Helping Hands Foodbank** - a joint project being run by Action For Refugees In Lewisham (AFRIL) and this parish. To find out more about how you can be involved see our website:

[www.goodpeter.org.uk/helping-hands-foodbank](http://www.goodpeter.org.uk/helping-hands-foodbank)

If you'd like to give by text, text 'LEE + your amount' to 70085. For example, text LEE 10 to donate £10. This text will cost you £10 plus a standard network rate text message. You can donate £1, 3, 5, 10, 15 or £20.

We also have contactless giving available at the back.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Sleep well!*

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## The Bereavement Journey

*A course for anyone who's been bereaved*

Are you grieving the death of a loved one, or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A six-session course will soon be running in this area, looking at subjects like separation and loss, difficult feelings, the impact and pain of bereavement, coping with others, coping with change, moving forward, and an optional session on questions of faith. The course is for anyone who'd like to attend – whether you've been bereaved recently, or many years ago.

The course will run fortnightly **beginning on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 3–5pm** at St. Peter's Church, Weigall Rd, SE12 8HQ. Tea and cake will be served half way through the session, and there is car parking at the church.

To book a place please contact: [office@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:office@goodpeter.org.uk) or call 020 83185809



**Resolve**

**A 4 week course to help us make  
life-long positive changes.**

**Wednesdays 5th-26th January 2022  
7.30pm—8.30pm**

**St Swithun's Hall, St Swithun's Road  
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