

**The Parish Church of
St John the Evangelist
Upper Norwood**



**High Mass of
Christmas Day 2020**

Fr Myles Owen presides at this morning's Mass.

Walsingham Mass Setting

Gloria NEH 541

Communicant members of other churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Mass. If you would like to receive a blessing, please come to the altar carrying this booklet with you.

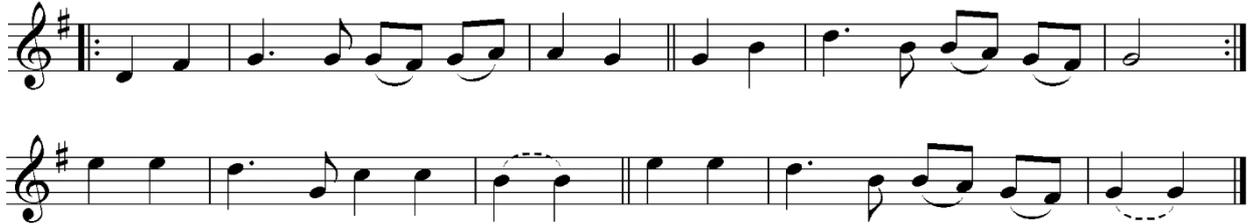
*A collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK tax payer, please fill in the **blue gift-aid envelope**. Your donation is worth an extra 25p for each pound you give.*

The Gathering

We **STAND** as the choir sing during which the altar party enter

Processional Carol

NEH 34 / CfC2 p148



Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;**

**Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

+ Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

*The president introduces the service and invites the children to
come forward.*

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

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.

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

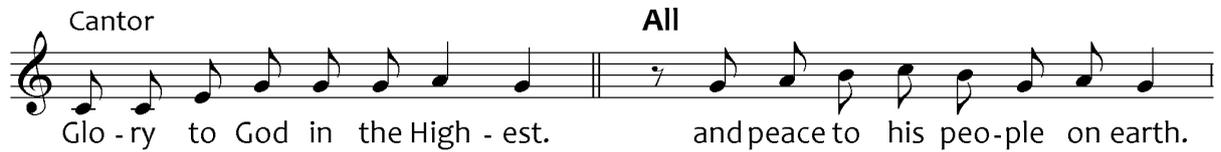
You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

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

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

Gloria in Excelsis

Cantor All



Glo - ry to God in the High - est. and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer,

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We SIT.

Readings

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 62. 6-end

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have laboured;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.’
They shall be called, ‘The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD’;
and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out, a City Not Forsaken.’

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

We *STAND*

Carol
NEH 22 / CfC1 p2

**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.**

Anonymous
Philadelphia 1883

Cradle Song
Tune by W J Kirkpatrick 1838-1921
arranged by David Willcocks

A reading from St Paul’s letter to Titus

Titus 3. 4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus

Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

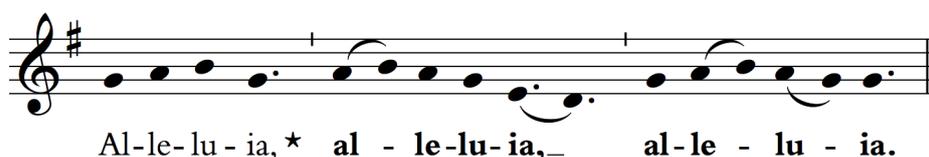
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

*We remain **STANDING** to sing the acclamation to welcome the Gospel. The choir sings the verse, and we repeat the Alleluias.*

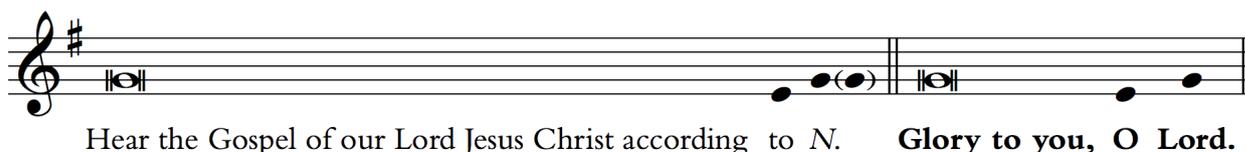
We turn to face the Book of the Gospels, as Christ speaks to his people.



Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The word became flesh and dwelt a-mong us :
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



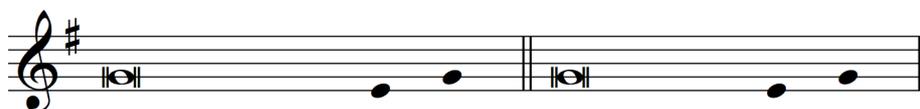
Luke 2. 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave

birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Fr John Pritchard

We SIT. The sermon is followed by a short time for reflection.

We STAND.

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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.

Prayers of Intercession

*We **KNEEL** or **SIT** to pray.*

The president introduces the prayers:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father on this holy day your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

Father, on this holy day
angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*We **STAND.***

The Peace

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.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Preparation of the Table
Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Carol

NEH 32 / CfC p. 92



**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.**

'Forest Green'

English traditional melody

*harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–
1958)*

Philip Brooks (1835–93)

The following prayers are said

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Let us pray.

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All

Organ Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your
 glo - ry Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high est.
 Bless - ed, Bless - ed, Bless - ed is He who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Glo - ry and peace in the high - est hea - vens, Ho -
 san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We KNEEL or SIT.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 and as we obey his command,
 send your Holy Spirit,
 that broken bread and wine outpoured
 may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
 and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

The deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Our Lady Mary, Saint John the Evangelist,
Saint Alban the Martyr and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.



A- men.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The Body and Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The sacrament is distributed to you in your places

The Agnus Dei

ALL

Organ

Lamb of God, Je - sus Christ
Lamb of God, Morn- ing Star,

fount of hea-ven's grace, you take a-way the sin of the world.____
light on dark-ness shed, you take a-way the sin of the world.____

Lamb of God, Sa - viour pour - ing out your life, you take a-way the
Lamb of God, Ma-ry's son born for sin-ners' good, you take a-way the

sin of the world.____
sin of the world.____ Bread of the an-gels, Food of the pil-grim, have

mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, grant us peace, Lord.____

Prayer after Communion

We *STAND*.

Let us pray.

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.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The president pronounces God's blessing

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 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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.



**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:**

'Mendelssohn'
adapted from Felix Mendelssohn (1809–
47)

*Charles Wesley (1707–88) and
others*

Organ Voluntary: Rhapsodie on old French carols

William Faulkes 1863-1933

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

- **27th December, 11am: High Mass for St John the Evangelist**
- **1st January, 12 noon: High Mass for the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**, followed by a pub lunch if pubs are open and we are allowed to go.

DEANERY PATRONAL FESTIVALS:

- **26th December, 10am: Sung Mass at St Stephen's, Norbury and Thornton Heath**

FOODBANK SUNDAY: 3rd January. On the first Sunday of each month we collect food for our local foodbank. They currently have plenty of pasta and tea, and are asking for *tinned meat pies, corned beef, curry, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tinned custard, and tinned rice pudding*. Please donate what you can.

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**The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Upper
Norwood**

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Honorary Assistant Priests: The Reverend Canon Andrew
Wilson,

The Reverend Tom Hurcombe, The Reverend Myles Owen

For amendments to the prayer list please contact Fr John or the
Parish Office

Safeguarding Officers: Rachel Rae and Rebecca Hall.





Loving God
Walking with Jesus
Led by the Spirit
Luke 24:13-35

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