



The Parish of Baildon



CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

2023

Welcome to Christmas Communion in the Parish of Baidon.

We come together to thank God for the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ, to pray that the birth of the Prince of Peace might bring God's peace to the whole world and that our lives might be renewed and sustained by him.

An Induction Loop
Amplifier is installed in St John's Parish Church



Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) (material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2010.

The Gathering

Welcome

Carol

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hill and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Greeting

‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

All Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God,

All and now we see you as a newborn child.

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

All Amen.

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

All and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**All 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.**

Gloria

All **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

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

Silence is kept

(At Midnight Communion) 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.

All **Amen.**

(On Christmas morning) 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

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for the reading. At the end of the reading::

Reader: For the gift of your holy word.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol (at Midnight Communion)

**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.**

Carol (on Christmas morning)

***Come and join the celebration
it's a very special day
come and join the celebration
there's a new King born today***

**See the shepherds
hurry down to Bethlehem
gaze in wonder
at the Son of God who lay before them**

Come and join the celebration...

**Wise men journey,
led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage,
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so**

Come and join the celebration...

'God is with us,'
round the world the message bring;
He is with us
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are peeling

Come and join the celebration
it's a very special day
come and join the celebration
there's a new King born today

Gospel Reading

Remain standing for the Gospel Reading

Today Christ is born:

All Alleluia!

Today the Saviour has come:

All Alleluia!

Today the angels sing on earth:

All Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
(on Christmas Day—Gospel according to Luke).

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

All 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

At Midnight the following prayers will be used.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night 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

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night 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

All hear our prayer.

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

All hear our prayer.

Father, in this holy night 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.

All Amen.

On Christmas Morning

To the words 'Lord in your mercy' would you please respond '**Hear our prayer**' *At the end of prayers*

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

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

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

Lord, have mercy.

All 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.

All Christ, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

All 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.

All Amen.

We stand and at Midnight Communion we light the Christ-light in our Advent Candle and switch on the Christmas Tree lights.

We light the Christ candle as a sign to the world that today, in the City of David, a Saviour is born, who is Christ the Lord. We no longer have to fear the darkness for our Light has come. That light that enlightens all people has broken into our world. And the world will never be the same again.

All Lord Jesus, Light of Light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

(At Midnight Communion) This holy night the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'.

(On Christmas morning) 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

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace by turning to one's neighbour and greeting them with a handshake with the words 'Peace be with you'.

Carol *(during which the collection will be taken for the work of this Parish, as you leave Church there will be an opportunity to make a donation via our contactless giving machine if you would prefer to give in this way.)*

**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,**

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
 O come, let us adore him,**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:**

O come let us adore him

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to be thee be glory given
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**

O come, let us adore him,

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented. The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. The following prayer is said. Please remain standing for the whole of the Eucharistic Prayer.

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

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond

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

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The president recalls the Last Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

God is with us, and so we pray

All 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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

The Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president gives the invitation to communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Everyone at this service is very welcome to come forward and receive the bread and wine whether you've been confirmed or not. Please follow the direction of the Churchwardens. Please join in with the singing of the carols below. At the distribution of the bread and wine these words will be said

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life

The communicant replies **Amen.**

Communion Hymns (*at Midnight Communion*)

**Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born.
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

(at Christmas Day Communion)

**Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.**

**Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.**

**Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophesy the story.**

**Gold, a King is born today,
incense, God is with us,
myrrh, his death will make a way,
and by his blood he'll win us.**

**Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty champion.
What a Saviour, what a friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history.**

**I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside,
and all the lights of town were shining far below,
when up in the air beautiful voices
sing a new song, let everyone know.**

*Oh and love shone down
over the hills and over the valleys,
Oh and love shone down
over the world.*

**Somebody spoke to me, I knew it was an angel.
He said: 'There's something that I think you ought to know.'
Then he just smiled, said: 'Don't be afraid now,
sing a new song, let everyone know.'**

Oh and love shone down

**And then he told me all about the baby Jesus,
how to find him, where exactly I should go.
Then he was joined by millions of others,
sing a new song, let everyone know.**

Oh and love shone down

**Well, did I dream or was I really on that hillside,
on that Christmas night so very long ago?
When he was born, Jesus our Saviour,
sing a new song, let everyone know.**

***Oh and love shone down
over the hills and over the valleys,
Oh and love shone down
over the world.***

Prayer after Communion

(At Midnight 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.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

(On Christmas morning): 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.

All Amen.

All 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.

Carol

**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:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

**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:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

The Dismissal

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, 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, and those whom you love, this day and always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.



A Happy Christmas to you all!

Please feel free to take this service booklet
home with you after Christmas morning.