



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023,  
Nativity Play and Holy Communion  
10am St John's Kidlington

[www.kidhp.org.uk](http://www.kidhp.org.uk)

 KidlingtonAnglicanChurches

You are welcome here

We are a team of 3 Anglican churches serving local people in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle (St Mary's, St John's, and St Mary's Hampton Poyle). We are committed to including everyone without discrimination and whatever your experience of church.

How do I know what to do in the service?

Any requests to stand or sit are invitations not instructions. Please adopt whatever posture most suits you.

It's easy to worry about not knowing what to do, but it doesn't really matter if you stand up when others are sitting, or anything else.... What matters is that you find space to be with God.

Everything you need is in this booklet, and the notices of coming events. If you need any help just ask the welcomers by the door or the people sitting near you. Everyone is happy to help.

Things in bold type are usually said or sung together.  
Things in ordinary type are said from the front.  
Revd Felicity Scroggie will preside at Communion.

The Nativity Play will be performed by the members of St John's Junior Church. We would like to say thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen.

## The Gathering

*You are invited to stand*

### Opening Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new,  
bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*

*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*

*When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:

He will come, as a man,

born himself of woman, God divinely human:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!...*

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.

In her womb God is laid,

till the time expected, nurtured and protected:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!...*

Journey ends: where afar Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.

Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!...*

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

*Please sit*

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

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

**and also with you.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Once the candles are lit we say together*



**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long  
for your coming. Amen.**

*We sing the verses of the Advent song*

Come and light the candles on the Advent ring, Scattering the  
darkness till the world shall sing.

We are all God's people, waiting in this place,  
Hoping that in Jesus we shall see God's face.

Prophet voices speaking clear, like a burning flame,  
Making sure our world will never be the same.

John the Baptist telling us God wants to forgive,  
Calling us to change the way we work and live.

Mary, full of courage, echoing God's yes,  
Going on the journey God will greatly bless.

## Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*We hold silence*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sin,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## The Collect

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Nativity Play performed by Junior Church

## Prayers of Intercession

*Led by Junior Church  
You are invited to sit or kneel*

## The Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Table

*During the hymn, the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

## Offertory hymn: Tell out my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the  
hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

*You are invited to remain standing, but please sit if you prefer*

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory. Amen.

## Eucharistic Prayer B

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness  
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so  
he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets,  
announced by an angel,  
conceived by a virgin,  
and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race.

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

**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.**

*You are invited to sit*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and  
according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the  
body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice  
made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of St John the Baptist, St Mary, and  
all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;



by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*We sing*

**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

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. Communion is offered in two kinds - bread and wine both together by the priest intincting (dipping) the wafer for you, or the wafer alone followed by the common cup.*

*If you would like to receive the common cup please give a simple indication so that we do not intinct your wafer.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion we invite you to come forward and receive a simple blessing.*

## Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill  
us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen  
life; we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the  
world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set  
before us, so we and all your children shall be  
free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sending Out

*You are invited to stand*

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

## Hymn

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,  
should set His love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that He was born of Mary  
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home,  
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
as with His peace He graced this place of tears,  
or how His heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted  
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear  
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;  
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,  
how He will claim His earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,  
and He shall reap the harvest He has sown,  
and some glad day His sun will shine in splendour  
when He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when at His bidding every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation

when every heart with love and joy is filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

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A huge thank you to all who have worked hard preparing and performing the Nativity Play! If you would like to enjoy it again do come this afternoon at 4pm for the Crib Service.



You are all warmly invited to the 3pm Christingle and the 11pm Midnight Mass today at St Mary's and the 11.30pm Midnight Mass here at St John's.

There is no morning service tomorrow at St John's but do join us for the 10am Christmas Celebration tomorrow at St Mary's.

There will be **no** Iona Service at St John's on the 26th.  
There will be **no** midweek Communion at St Mary's on the 27th.  
There will be **no** 8am communion at St Mary's on the 31st.

Everyone is welcome at all of our services all through the year. Please visit [www.kidhp.org.uk](http://www.kidhp.org.uk) for details of the many services, events and activities that are held throughout the year for all local people.

Felicity, Susy and all the staff team wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peace-full Christmas.