



Christmas Day 2023

St Mary's Church, Kidlington

You are welcome today and always at any of our services, groups, or events. Please do not hesitate to contact the clergy or the office if you need us. Our web site is up to date and we are active on Facebook where you can see livestreamed and bespoke online services—please check us out!

Felicity: 07821 542182

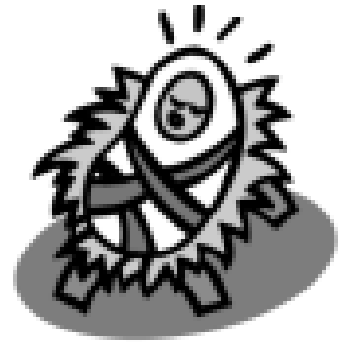
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www.kidhp.org.uk Facebook: KidlingtonAnglicanChurches

In this and all our services the indications to sit / stand are invitations not instructions. Please adopt whatever posture most suits you.

You are invited to stand

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O 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.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

But when to Bethlehem they came, Whereat this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling down, Unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth efface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Welcome:

'Do I not fill earth and heaven?' says the Lord

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

From eternity to eternity you are God,

And now we see you as a new-born child.

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

And also with you

You are invited to sit

Prayer:

Lord, we know the Christmas story so well;

Help us to understand it better.

Make it more real so that with Mary and Joseph

We too may journey in faith to Bethlehem;

With the shepherds we may hear again

The good tidings of the Saviour's birth;

And with the angels we may glorify your holy name.

So give us new joy in our Christmas worship,

And fill our hearts with wonder, love, and praise. **Amen**

Lighting the Christmas Candle

*The response 'Amen' means 'let it be'. If you do wish for the
peace of Christ to come among us feel free to give a good shout
of Amen at the end!*

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people shout:

Amen!

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.

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**

...and Absolution

The God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and
cleanse you from all your sin, that you may behold the glory
of his Son, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

You are invited to stand

In response to God's forgiveness and as our Gloria we sing:

Angels from the realms of Glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Glo.....ria, In excelsis deo

Though an infant, now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:
Glo.....ria, In excelsis deo

You are invited to sit

The Collect:

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

Reading Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

*The People who walked in Darkness
have seen a Great Light*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in
blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no
end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

You are invited to stand

Carol:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

For know a blessed mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honour thee
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
To me be as it pleaseth God she said
My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

The Gospel Luke 2. 8-20

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

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord
appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do
not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy
for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has
been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a
sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in
a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please sit

Christmas Reflection — *Canon Felicity Scroggie*

Affirmation of Faith

**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 for the World and God's People

You are invited to stand

The Peace

*We exchange a sign of God's peace with those sitting near us:
'Peace be with you' or 'Happy Christmas'*

Offertory Carol

During this carol a collection will be taken for the work of the church in the local community. Thank you for your generosity. For those who don't carry cash we now have a (working!) card reader.

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.

Men: Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowst it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?

Women: Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.

Men: Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I shall see him dine
When we bear them thither.

All: Page and monarch, forth they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude winds wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Women: Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.

Men: Mark my footsteps, good my page
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shall find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

All: In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Gathering for Communion

Lord our God, gather us in

Gather us in,
the lost and lonely,
the broken and breaking,
the tired and aching
who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the done and the doubting,
the wishing and wondering,
the puzzled and pondering
who long for the company found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the proud and pretentious,
the sure and superior,
the never inferior,
who long for the levelling found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the bright and the bustling,
the stirrers, the shakers,
the kind laughter makers
who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

Gather us in,
to meet, to eat,
be given a seat,
be joined to the vine, be offered new wine,
become like the least, be found at the feast.
Amen.

The Eucharist

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.

Blessed are you, God of all glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ.
We worship and adore you.

He is the heavenly king, born of Mary.
We worship and adore you.

He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby.
We worship and adore you.

He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes.
We worship and adore you.

He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger.
We worship and adore you.

Strong in weakness,
glorious in humility,
to him be all praise and glory.
We join with all the company of heaven,
worshipping you and saying:

**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

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
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.**

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.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Sharing Communion.

Around Christ's table everyone is welcome.

*If you are visiting us today you are welcome to receive
communion (by intinction or with the common cup)
or to come forward for a blessing.*

*The common cup will be on your right - please indicate if you
would like to receive from the cup.*

We stay seated to sing carols during 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,
Heavenly 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 the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

.....

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 You, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there

Prayer After Communion

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins." — [Howard Thurman](#)

**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.**

You are invited to stand

The Blessing

The blessing of joy abide within you;
The blessing of peace rest upon you;
The blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours
this Christmas and for ever
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ
Amen.** *And turn the page for..... Good Luck!*

1. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
The Saviour Jesus was born.
2. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Close in a stall
There the Saviour Jesus was born.
3. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
In Bethlehem
Close in a stall
there the Saviour Jesus was born
4. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
On Christmas Day
In Bethlehem
Close in a stall
there the Saviour Jesus was born
5. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Peace on the earth.....
6. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Angels were singing.....
7. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Heav'n was a-blazing.....
8. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Shepherds were watching.....
9. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Sheep were a-grazing.....
10. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
People were sleeping.....
11. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Bright skies were shining.....
12. On a night when the world in its sin and sorrow lay,
Wise men were riding.....

**Kidlington with Hampton Poyle Team Ministry:
St Mary's Kidlington
St John's Kidlington
St Mary's Hampton Poyle**

***Visit our web site to keep up to date with our news and
events: www.kidhp.co.uk***

***The people of our three churches are here welcoming all
comers and serving the local community
throughout the year.***

***All our churches are open every day
for private use.***

***We work with children and families, with older people,
and are here for all who are lonely, afraid, or facing loss.***

***We mark the momentous times of life,
both highs and lows, with local families.***

There is always lots going on.....

***We are here to share the love of God in our community
And would love to share it with you.***



***A Peace-full and Joyous Christmas to
you from everyone at St Mary's.***