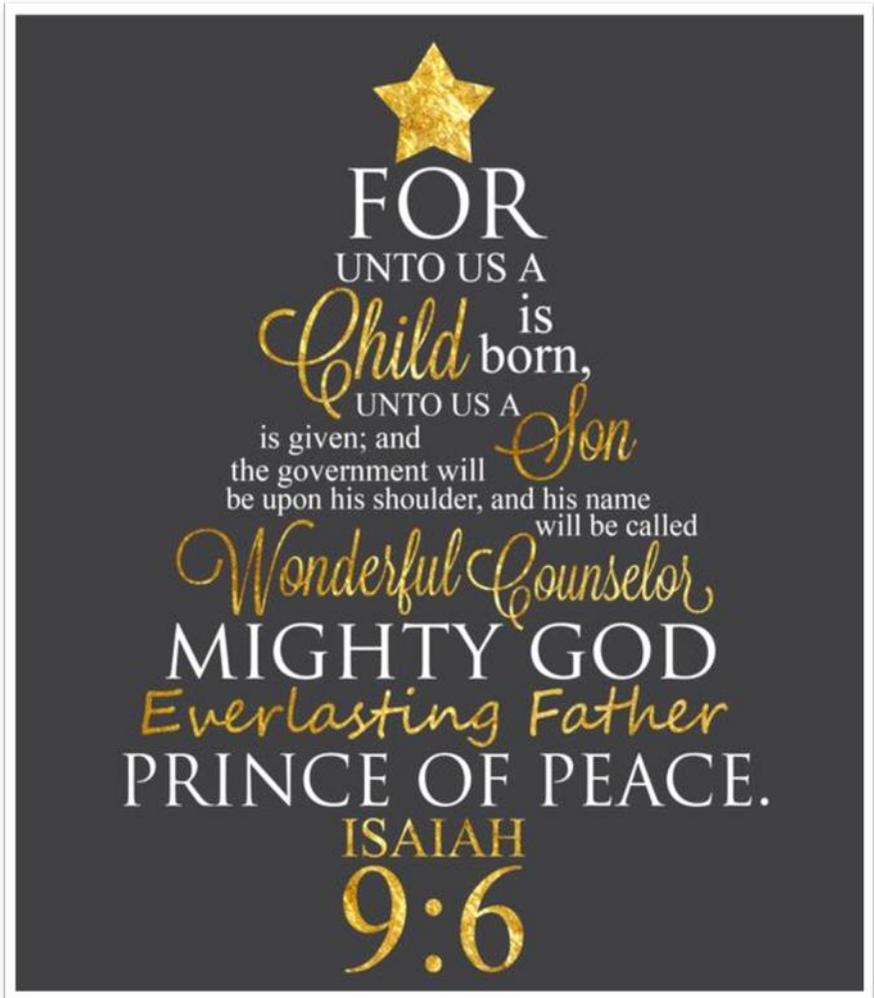


St George's Church



Christmas Eve Service

11.00pm

Call to Worship

Come, and sing a new song to God!

For God has done wonderful things!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

God brings justice and salvation,

God's faithful love is for everyone.

Let earth receive her King

Tell everyone to sing songs of joy in praise of God!

Make music and celebrate!

Let every heart prepare a room

For to us a child is born:

Jesus, the Light of the world.

We light the Christ's Candle

Hark The Herald Angels

Hark the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn 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 in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more shall die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born king.

**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,**



**so that we may truly love you
and worthily praise your holy name;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please be seated

Hear the teaching of Christ:

you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

This is the first commandment.

And a second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Hear the teaching of Christ:

a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Hear God's word to all who turn to Christ: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

Let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God,
we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name,
Amen**

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on us, pardon us and set us free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in life eternal. **Amen.**

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Sentence of the Day

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



Collect of the Day

**Son of God,
light that shines in the dark,
Child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.
Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols but the LORD made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;

for he is coming, to judge the earth. He will judge all the people with his truth.



Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Gradual Carol - Silent Night

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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

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!”

Homily: The Rev’d Brendon Wilkinson

Prayers of the People

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with You

And also with you

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

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel



The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here

God's Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Loving God, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for on this day you were delivered as one of us, a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to let the broken victims go free. There, with the woman who gave you birth, and with all who have loved you throughout the ages, we praise you saying:

[spoken]

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God; hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; who, on the night when he was delivered over to death, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this to remember me.”

In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, when ever you drink it, to remember me.”

For as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we are proclaiming Christ's death until he comes.

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Come now, Spirit of God, transform us with your power.
Brood over these things and make us one body.
May creation be made whole through the new birth
of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

(The bread is broken)

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, For we all share the one bread.

We pray together as we sing:

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen

Invitation

All are welcome to receive communion.



Sentence After Communion

“Do not be afraid, Listen, I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all people. Today, in the town of David, Jesus the Christ has been born.”

(Luke 2:10b, 11a)

Concluding Prayer

**God of love, may we, for whom the heavens have opened,
never lose that heavenly vision.**

**May we, who like the shepherds, have seen in the birth of Jesus a new
kind of love, witness to that love in our lives.**

With Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn—O Come All Ye Faithful

1. 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;

Refrain :

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the
Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created.

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;

Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born for our salvation
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

Go now to love and serve the Lord, go now in peace

Amen, we go in the name of Christ



