



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM



Midnight Communion  
Christmas Eve  
24 December 2021

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son.....” John 3 (16)***

Welcome

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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 thy 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 giv'n!

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

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.

### Confession

The angel said to Joseph:  
**'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'**  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of  
Life to the glory of your name. Amen.

### Absolution

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

## The Christmas Eve Collect

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to  
see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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.

## 1st Reading – Jeremiah 31 (31-34)

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

### 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 power  
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:

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,  
This blessed Babe to find:

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,  
Unto the Lord did pray:

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 deface:

2nd Reading – John 1 (1-14)

*When the reading is announced*

All    Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end of the reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All    Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Sussex Carol

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

To hear the news the angels bring. (x2)

News of great joy news of great mirth,

News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad, (x2)  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place. (x2)  
Angels and men with joy may sing  
All for to see the new born King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night: (x2)  
**“Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and forever more, Amen.”**

Prayers

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## The Communion

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.

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.  
Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

### *Proper Preface*

And now we give you thanks  
because, in the incarnation of the Word,  
a new light has dawned upon the world;  
you have become one with us  
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.  
Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All** Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours<sup>96</sup> for ever  
and ever. Amen.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
*All* 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.

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.

#### *Distribution of Communion*

*All* 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.  
Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

### 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 newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"

## The Peace (*Stand*)

For to us a child is born, to 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.*

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# At the heart of Christmas



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and meditations for Christmas at  
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