



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mark

Serving the people of Broomhill & Broomhall

Living Thinking Faith

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

A Service of Holy Communion
sharing Christian hospitality
to celebrate the birth of the Christchild

*'And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.'* (John 1.14)

Christmas Eve 2015, 11.30 pm

Welcome

*A warm welcome to all this Christmas night, especially if you are a visitor
this evening. Our celebration is richer for your part in it.
Thank you for being here.*



To use the *Induction Loop*, please select the *T Setting* on your hearing aid.

LARGE PRINT versions of worship materials are available at the back.



Please turn off all *mobile phones* and *paggers* or set them to silent mode. Thank you!

ALLERGY ADVICE: we use gluten and dairy free bread at Communion and our wine contains alcohol.

Before this service begins, we are invited to share a time of quiet preparation, an oasis of calm amidst all the busyness.

Gathering

Organ Voluntary: Interlude on Coventry Carol by William Lloyd Webber (1914 - 1982)

At the Crib

The service begins at the crib, reflecting the instability of a refugee tent.

The church is largely in darkness.

Please stand and turn to face the back of church.

Choir Anthem – *Away in a Manger, Normandy Tune, harmonised by Reginald Jacques.*

On this night of the year, a voice is speaking – can we hear it?

I know the cares and the anxious thoughts of your hearts.

I know the hard time you often give yourselves.

*I know the hopes and ambitions that you have
for yourselves and for others.*

I know your doubts, too, even while you seek to express your belief.

On this night, I want to find a way of saying to you:

You are deeply, deeply loved, just as you are;

forgiven, loved and challenged to be

the very best you can be.

So I'm speaking to you in the only way I know how –

from a stable,

in a child born into poverty,

soon to grow to maturity,

born to show you, in a human life, the love of God.

John Harvey

The candles of the advent wreath are lit one by one:

We light this candle because we have heard a promise of peace
and we have faith its day will come

We light this candle because we have heard a rumour of justice
and we have faith its day will come

We light this candle because we have heard a whisper of hope
and we have faith its day will come

We light this candle because we have heard a hint of love
and we have faith its day will come

We light this candle because we have heard of the birth of the Christchild
and we have faith his day is here.

Cheryl Lawrie (adapted)

Processional Carol

1

ONCE IN ROYAL David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3

For he is our childhood's pattern
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

4

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Mrs C F Alexander (1818-95) & Michael Forster (b. 1946). Tune: Irby.

Prayers of Approach

May God be with you:
and also with you.

LIGHT ETERNAL,
you bring to light things hidden in darkness
and know the shadows of our hearts:
cleanse and renew us by your Spirit,
that we may walk in the light
and glorify your name;
through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

Christ, the Light of the world,
has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light, we become aware of our own shortcomings
and also God's potential hidden deep within us.

Pause for reflection.

You were born through Mary's labour;
but we look for answers that cost us nothing.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You were greeted by shepherds and angels;
but we close our doors on those outside.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You share our humanity and delight in your creation;
but we make your love too small and take your gift for granted.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of forgiveness
heal you of all that harms you
and lead you into life eternal. **Amen.**

Gloria

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth!
The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills 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, and wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
based on Psalm 98, alt.
Tune: Antioch*

Collect

Mighty God,
most holy and most humble,
you have chosen to hear our cry
and share our poverty.
Come close to our world,
kindle our hearts
and melt our despair,
that with all your creatures
we may live in hope;
through Jesus Christ our King. **Amen.**

Janet Morley

Attending

Reading – Isaiah 52:7 - 10, read by Helen Ives

Please sit

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Let us wait upon the Lord;
in whose word is our hope.

Psalm 130.5.

Carol

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 the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Joseph Mohr, (1792-1848) trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885).
Tune: Stille Nacht.*

Gospel – John 1:1 - 14

The good news is proclaimed from the heart of the worshipping community.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Rev'd Sue Hammersley (Vicar)

The sermon is followed by a time of quiet for reflection.

Responding

Prayers of the people;

a form written by Ann Lewin especially for a service such as this, led by Briony Tayler.

The following bidding and response is used after each petition.

Light of the world.

Bring healing, bring peace.

At the end.

Christ, Light of the world.

**May your healing peace
bring hope to our troubled world;
be born in us, we pray. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

The still of night is broken by a baby's wordless cry;
the gods of power are shaken by the nakedness of love;
for in his flesh, he makes peace
and ends the war of all against all.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Gestures of peace and goodwill are shared with those around us.

Carol

A collection is taken for the mission and ministry of St Mark's. If you are a taxpayer, please place your gift in one of the yellow envelopes provided, writing your name and address on the front. If you leave the envelope blank, we are unable to reclaim tax under the 'Gift Aid' scheme. Thank you.

1
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 all
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

3
Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise of mortal strife,
and hear the angels sing.

2
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.

4
For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-76). Tune: Noel.

Abiding

Preparation

Tokens of our response to God, bread and wine, and the collection, are offered.

We bring to this table the substance of our lives.

**Bread to sustain us,
wine to gladden the hearts,
money, the fruit of our labours.**

As shepherds and sages worshipped the Prince of Peace.

These are our offerings of thanksgiving and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray

(Please sit or kneel)

May God be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

O Eternal Wisdom,
we praise you and give you thanks,
because you emptied yourself of power
and became foolishness for our sake:
for on this night you were delivered as one of us,
a baby needed and naked,
wrapped in a woman's blood;
born into poverty and exile,
to proclaim the good news to the poor,
and to let the broken victims go free.

Janet Morley

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and 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.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

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 for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

(continued over)

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of truth and love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, O blessed is he,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Common Worship

Setting from 'St Anne's Mass,' by James Macmillan (b 1959)

Lord's Prayer & Communion

Rejoicing in God's presence among us,
we pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

The bread is broken.

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.**

Words of invitation follow.

Draw near to Bethlehem,
House of Bread,
where hungry hearts are satisfied,
seeking souls find wisdom,
and failing faith is kindled back to life.

**Today, God has turned the world upside-down
and restored the dignity of all people. Alleluia!**

Everyone is invited to share in the communion through receiving the bread and wine or, if preferred, a prayer of blessing. Please approach the altar rail with those around you. Gluten-free bread rolls are used.

During administration, the choir will sing: 'Past Three O'Clock',

harmonised by Charles Wood (1866 - 1926)

At the conclusion, silence is shared.

Venturing

Prayer of Commitment

Let us pray.

**GOD of the stable,
God of the manger,
we thank you for revealing your glory
in the humility of our humanity
and in ordinary things made holy:
we offer you our lives in the service
of those who walk in darkness
as well as those who have seen a great light;
that Christ may be found among us
and his beauty transfigure the world. Amen.**

Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the sages,
the understanding of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;

and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you and those whom you love,
both living and departed, now and always. **Amen.**

Carol

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*John F Wade (1711-86).
Tune: Adeste Fideles.*

Commission *(Please face the back of church)*

We wish you the trust of Mary:
with faith to say, 'Yes!'

We wish you Joseph's loyalty:
and wisdom to take a risk.

We wish you an adventure:
with shepherds or kings.

We wish you stars to guide you:
in the company of angels.

But this Christmas Night especially
we wish you the peace
of knowing God's love, here among us.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729 by JS Bach

*A retiring collection is taken up in support of the work of Christian Aid.
Please use the Christian Aid envelopes in the pews and Gift Aid
your donation if you are a UK tax payer. Thank you.*

We've mucked out the stable
and put down the plush carpet;
still
you will come:
tracking in mud from the Jordan
and shaking sin's dust off your clothes.

The animals have
been dropped off at the RSPCA,
and the room deodorised;

still
you will come:
leading the lost, the least, the little
into our midst.

We've turned over the manger
and covered it with Irish lace,
setting the table with the finest silver and china;

still
you will come:
tearing the linen into strips for binding our wounds,
selling the silver to feed the hungry.

We've tamed and made marketable
this most holy of nights,
shaping it by our own desires and dilemmas;

still
you will come:
slipping between the cracks in our despair
to fill our emptiness with grace
and the carols of angels;
to transform our acquisitiveness into generosity.

Thom M Shuman

Wishing you
Peace and Joy
this Christmas



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