

Christmas Eucharist

10.30am Christmas Day 2020

Gathering

This service is being live streamed only, and there is no attendance in church in person in the congregation.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 10.25am in preparation for the service.
2. Go to our website www.stmaryletower.org.uk and find the “**LIVE Streamed Services**” title and click to go to our **Facebook Live** page.
3. Click on the service video. When the video opens you will need to click on the loudspeaker icon to unmute it and hear the sound.

Music before the Service

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605 – J. S. Bach

‘This day, it is so joyful’

Organist: William Baldry

Welcome and Introduction

The minister gives some NOTICES, and INTRODUCES the service.

Dear Friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

**Lord, by the song of the angels
you disclosed your birth to your own people,
and by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you now,
and to make you known to all. Amen.**

Prayers of 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.

We pause in quiet for reflection.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. In your mercy, **forgive us and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. In your mercy, **forgive us and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. In your mercy, **forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. In your mercy, **forgive us and heal us.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day (The Collect)

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

The President lights the Christmas Candle on the Advent wreath.

**Eternal God, in the stillness of that night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world’s darkness
with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gloria Spaur Mass - Mozart

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te;
benedicimus te; adoramus te; glorificamus te;*

Glory be to God on high, and in earth
peace, good will towards men. We
praise thee, we bless thee, we worship
thee, we glorify thee.

*Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam, Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus Pater
omnipotens.*

We give thanks to thee for thy great
glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God
the Father almighty.

*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine
Deus Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, Qui tollis
peccata mundi miserere nobis.*

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus
Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son
of the Father, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.

*Qui tollis peccata mundi suscipe
deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad
dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.*

Thou that takest away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer. Thou that
sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus tu solus Dominus
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto
Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

For thou only art holy; thou only art
the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the
Holy Ghost, art the Most High, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen.

Listening for the Word from God

Titus 2.11-14

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.

For the gift of his living word,
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Carol

Please join in at home if you would like to.

**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, [x3]
Christ the Lord!**

**God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come...**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come...**

Gospel: Luke 2.1-14

read by Richard Hanley, Elder

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We all sing:

**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, (x3)
Christ the Lord!**

Sermon

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
**he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:

**that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,**

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Intercession

Read by Sonia Docherty, Elder

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless, give strength to all who work to help the poor, and may all refugees find welcome and safety. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep give new hope to all who struggle, and may all people hear the good news of your love. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed, give justice and freedom to all who are exploited, and may wars cease throughout the whole world. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern, give the nations courage in facing the future together, and may the whole earth be restored and renewed. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you, give confidence in your promises to all who love you, and may our lives shine with your eternal light. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
**you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayers.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Gifts of the People

St Mary-le-Tower faces considerable financial challenges at this time and everyone is invited to make a generous contribution by one method or another.

Donations may be made using as follows:

- *Regular giving by Standing Order*
- *The Donation Button on our website*
- *Via BACS to 30-94-55, 00059383
PCC St Mary le Tower Ipswich*

Offertory Anthem (Rutti)

Sung by the choir.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
and promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

The minister takes the collection plate. Recalling our giving for God's work of in the life and mission of our Church, the minister says:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race
humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

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.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The Sanctus is sung by the choir (Mozart)

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeliet terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord, most high.

The Benedictus is sung by the choir (please sit):

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life
and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Blessed Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Breaking Bread

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.
And 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.**

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei (Mozart)

Sung by the choir:

*Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis, dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us. Grant us thy peace.

Holy Communion

*Before receiving Communion, the minister proclaims
and all respond:*

The Body of Christ; the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ; the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

*The Minister receives the Bread and the Wine on
behalf of the Body of Christ at St Mary-le-Tower.*

*The People may make a sign of the cross to affirm their
participation in the Body of Christ, and in the blessing
of this Eucharistic celebration.*

Prayer after Communion

**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.**

Sending Out

Mission Hymn

Please join in at home if you would like to.

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'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, th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen 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 new-born King.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and be with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God

Organ Voluntary

In dulci jubilo BWV 729 – J. S. Bach

The livestream continues until the end of the voluntary.

After the Service

If you wish to speak to the vicar or another member of staff, it is best to do this currently by phone or email:

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