

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Christmas Day**

**Reading 1:** Hebrews 1: 1-12

**Gospel:** John 1: 1-14

*We enter into God's presence to give Him praise.*

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' 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 newborn child.**

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

**And also with you.**

**Song:** While shepherds watched

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdASbgux6ds>

**Invitation to Confession:**

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
Confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Pause for personal reflection*

**Confession:**

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks

to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star

to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**forgive and heal us.**

**Absolution:**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw *you* to himself

and cleanse *you* from all *your* sins,

that *you* may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed be the Lord

for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

and in our song will we praise our God.

**Reading 1: Hebrews 1: 1-12**

*God Has Spoken by His Son*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*The Son Is Superior to Angels*

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son;

today I have begotten you'?

Or again, 'I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son'?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

'Let all God's angels worship him.'

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

'He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire.'

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

<sup>10</sup> And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.'

*This is the word of the Lord.        Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel:     John 1: 1-14**

This is the gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to you O Christ.**

#### **The Word Became Flesh**

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

**Talk:** (click link)     <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSHLedqXNow>

**Song:**        Ding dong merrily on high

(click link)     <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IlzcQ4fr6o>

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

### **The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.  
Wonderful counsellor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,  
make the whole world know  
that the government is on your shoulders.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father,  
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty Lord,  
**hear our prayer**  
**and fulfil your purposes in us,**  
**as you accomplished your will**  
**in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**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.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

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 forever. Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves  
and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.*

**Blessing:**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty;  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us, and remain with us  
and all those whom we love,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Song:** O Come all ye faithful

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8dgl4-bVPU>

**Merry Christmas everyone!**