

Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion

St Mary of Charity
The Benefice of Faversham

Processional Carol Please stand to sing

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever. To dispel the darkness of our night, you sent your Son, the firstborn of all creation, to be the Christ, the light of the world.

We rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh, with all creation we acclaim him Emmanuel, God with us. Blessed be God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever.

Confession

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.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria We stand to sing



Glo-ry in the high-est to the God of heaven; peace to all your peo ple through the
earth be given. Migh-ty God and Fa-ther; thanks and praise we
bring, sing-ing Al - le - lu - ia to our heaven - ly king.

Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son;
with the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone.
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.
Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne;
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

We remain standing for the Collect:

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night your almighty Word
came down from heaven: pierce the world's darkness with the
light of salvation and give to the earth the peace that we long
for through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

We sit for the first reading:

Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16

Now when David was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you, that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Here ends the first lesson.

So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

‘You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, “I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.” Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, “What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.”

‘My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.’

At the end the reading, the reader will say

We respond:

This is word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn Please stand to sing

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.

‘Fear not’ said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’.

The Gospel Please remain standing

When the Gospel is announced we say:

Luke 1:67-79

Glory to you O Lord

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people
and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of
his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised
to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from
the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called
the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

At the end of the Gospel the priest says: This is the Gospel of the Lord

We all say: **Praise to you O Christ**

Please sit for the sermon

The Apostles' Creed (Please stand to say 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 (please sit or kneel to pray)

At the end of each prayer, the reader will say: Lord in your mercy

We respond: **Hear our prayer**

Lighting the Christmas Advent Candle

The Peace

We stand to exchange a sign of peace with each other

Hymn Please remain standing to sing

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, goodwill to men, from heav'ns 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 heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

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 man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The Eucharistic Prayer (please remain standing)

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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,

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:

Unknown



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly is the Lord, ho - ly is the Lord God al - migh - ty.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly is the Lord, ho - ly is the Lord God al - migh - ty: who

was, and is, and is to come; ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of St Mary of Charity
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

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 this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

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.**

Agnus Dei

Andante Mark Cheesman



Lamb of God You take a-way the sin of the world, — Have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God You take a-way the sin of the world Have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God You take a-way the sin of the world Grant us peace.

Prayer of Humble Access

**Most merciful Lord,
 your love compels us to come in.
 Our hands were unclean,
 our hearts were unprepared;
 we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
 from under your table.
 But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
 and share your bread with sinners.
 So cleanse and feed us with the precious body
 and blood of your Son,
 that he may live in us and we in him;
 and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
 may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen**

You are welcome to take Communion with us. If you would rather just receive a blessing, please come and kneel at the altar rail, holding this Order of Service.

During Communion the choir will sing:

Quelle est cette odeur; *arr Willcocks*

Away in a manger; *arr Willcocks*

After Communion

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.**

To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn Please stand to sing

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 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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our own hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

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

Voluntary Please remain seated for the Voluntary.

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729; J S Bach



Coming Services at St Mary of Charity:

Wednesday, 25 December 2019

10.30 am Family Eucharist

Thursday, 26 December 2019

Church closed all day

Sunday, 29 December 2019

10 am Joint Benefice Service of Holy Eucharist
at St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Ospringe.

Wednesday, 1 January 2019

No Wednesday Eucharist



**We wish you all a very happy and peaceful
Christmas and God's blessing upon you
for the New Year.**

