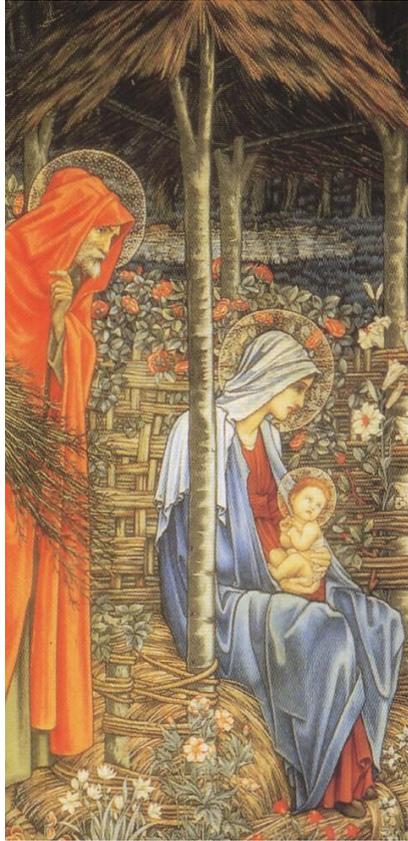


St Matthew's Westminster



Blessing of The Crib
& First Mass of
Christmas

December 24th, 2020

THE GATHERING

Mass Setting
Mass in C • William Mathias (1934-1992)
•
Organ Prelude
In dulci jubilo • J. S. Bach (1685-1750)



When the bell rings, please stand for the entry of servers and clergy. As the hymn is sung, the Altar and the Book of The Gospels are blessed with incense.

Entrance Hymn

*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.*

*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.*

*And through all his wondrous childhood
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.*

The Blessing of The Crib

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him: but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.*

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), 1848
Music: Irby (Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876)*

The Greeting

Priest ✕ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Prayers of Penitence

*to prepare ourselves to celebrate the holy mysteries,
we acknowledge our need of God's grace and forgiveness.*

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

the priest pronounces God's forgiveness.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, the hills and the plains
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.*

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Antioch (CP 57), G F Handel 1685-1759

Please remain standing for

The Collect

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 9. 2-7

at the end of the readings -

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Titus 2. 11-14

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

Alleluia, Alleluia. **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel St Luke 2. 1-14

when the Gospel is announced - Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end of the reading - Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily Fr Jonathan Aitken

The Apostles' Creed *(please stand)*

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.

The Prayers of The People *(please remain standing)*

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Peace

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.
Priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

during the hymn a collection is taken for the life and witness of the church, and the Altar is prepared. Once prepared, the Altar, with the gifts of bread and wine upon it, is blessed with incense. The clergy & congregation are also censured. Please remain standing.

*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 to-night.*

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
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 morning stars, together
Proclaim the 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 wandering love.*

*Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.*

*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.*

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93) Music: Forest Green (CP 63), English trad melody, harmony by R V Williams (1872-1958)

Priest Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The priest says a prayer over the elements of bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer *(please stand)*

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.

*We celebrate the work of God in creating,
restoring and bringing to completion all that is his.*

Sanctus & Benedictus *St George's Mass, Anthony Caesar (1924-2018)*

We recall Jesus' institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

*We recall the work of Christ, and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
praying as members of the Church for our whole life and mission.*

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of The Bread

*The consecrated bread is broken in silence before it is shared.
We who are many are one, for we all share in the one bread.*

Agnus Dei

Mass in C, William Mathias (1934-1992)

Holy Communion

The Celebrant invites the congregation to receive Communion, and all respond
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Members of other churches who receive Holy Communion are welcome to do so at this service. If for any reason you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Anthem

The Holy Boy • *John Ireland (1879-1962)*

*After Communion there is a time of silent prayer, which is followed by
The Postcommunion Prayer (please stand).*

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

*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!*

<i>God of God,</i>	<i>Sing, choirs of Angels,</i>
<i>Light of light,</i>	<i>Sing in exultation,</i>
<i>Lo! he abhors not</i>	<i>Sing, all ye citizens</i>
<i>The Virgin's womb;</i>	<i>Of heaven above;</i>
<i>Very God,</i>	<i>Glory to God</i>
<i>Begotten, not created:</i>	<i>In the Highest:</i>

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:*

*Words: Latin 18th Century, translated F Oakeley (1802-80)
Music Adeste Fideles (CP 61), melody by J F Wade (1711-86)*

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing, which is followed by the Dismissal -

Priest The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional

Toccata • Daniel Gawthrop (b 1949)



Christmas Services

Friday December 25th | Christmas Day
11.00 Solemn Mass of the Incarnation

Saturday December 26th | St Stephen, Protomartyr
10.00 Festal Mass at St Stephen's, Rochester Row

Sunday December 27th | Holy Family
11.00 Solemn Mass (said)

Sunday January 3rd | Christmas 2
11.00 Solemn Mass

Wednesday January 6th | Feast of The Epiphany
13.00 Sung Mass

There are no weekday services now until the Epiphany.
The church office is closed now until Wednesday January 6th.

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