

St James's Church, Piccadilly

Midnight Mass

Thursday 24th December 2020

11.30pm

IN ST JAMES'S CHURCH AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE

At 11.30pm, the priest censes the altar as the choir sings

THE INTROIT

Angelus Ad Pastores Ait (Andrea Gabrieli)

Angelus [Domini] ad pastores ait:
'annuntio vobis gaudium magnum,
quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.'
Alleluia.

The angel [of the Lord] said to the shepherds: 'I bring you tidings of great joy, for the Saviour of the world has been born to you today.'

Alleluia.

Luke 2.10-11

The priest says

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

And we beheld the glory of God.

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

And also with you.

The priest welcomes all to the in-person and online service and invites those attending to say where they are joining from in the YouTube chat function.

All say

Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name.

Through Christ we pray.

Amen.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon introduces the prayer of reconciliation

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, let us open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

**Ever-loving God,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart. We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what
we have been, help us to amend what we
are, and direct what we shall be, that we
may do justly, love mercy, and walk
humbly with you our God.
Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free. May you know you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

The choir sings

Gloria In Excelsis, from the Spatzen-Messe

by W.A. Mozart K.220 (1776)

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect (Prayer for the Day)

During this prayer, the final candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

The priest says

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this 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 Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL

John 1.1-14

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

Glory to you O Lord.

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

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

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

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.

THE SERMON

The Revd Dr John Russell

Silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

THE NICENE CREED

(from the fourth century)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need, and for those who have
asked for our prayers.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

led by a member of the congregation.

Please stand.

THE PEACE

The priest says

This holy night the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom God delights'

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please share the peace without shaking hands in church, or in the chat section of YouTube.

During the offertory carol, the deacon prepares the altar for Communion.

CAROL

[Tune: Noel; Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)]

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 all,
from heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the 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 warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise of mortal strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hast'ning 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 send back the song
which now the angels sing.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Word made flesh, life of the world;
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty.
By your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

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.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

All say

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

All say

**Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples

at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

The deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, all say

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Rejoicing in Emmanuel, God with us, let us pray in the words that Jesus gave 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 as the priest says

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Christ is the true bread come to us from heaven.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life

Amen.

THE COMMUNION

If you are attending the service in person, you are invited to move to a communion station either in the nave or in the gallery. Please wear a face covering as you move among people and you may find it more convenient to take your consecrated wafer back to your seat to consume it. Everyone is welcome to come forward for communion or for a blessing.

Music during Communion:

Shenandoah (trumpet and organ)

Choir Anthem: ***In The Bleak Midwinter*** (Harold Darke)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Redeemer Jesus Christ;
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning
Star rises in our hearts.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the priest.

FINAL CAROL

[Tune: Adeste fideles; Words: John Francis Wade (1710-1786)]

Please hum along if you would like to join in the carol.

In place of a collection, please make a text donation by texting WREN20, WREN10 or

WREN5 to 70085 to donate £20, £10 or £5 respectively.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest gives the blessing.

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into
one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with
joy and peace; and the blessing of God;
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be among you
and remain with you on this holy night and for
ever.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh!
Thanks be to God!

***Please make an online donation to
support the work of St James's Church***

www.sjp.org.uk