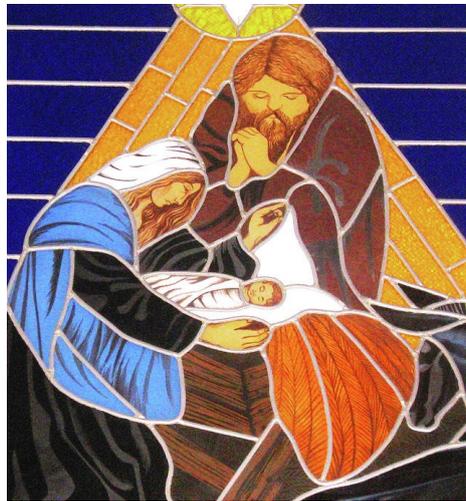


*Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry*  
*St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake*



*A service of Communion by extension*  
*Christmas Day 2020*  
*at 10am*

### The Gathering

#### Opening Hymn *(recorded by St Martin's singers)*

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

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, 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,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

### The Greeting

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

I bring you good news of great joy:  
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

**To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

### Prayers of Penitence

*We sit or kneel; silence is kept*

Christ the Light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you were born for our salvation:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

#### Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### The Collect

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

*Silence is kept.*

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. **Amen**

#### The Liturgy of the Word

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-15

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!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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

The Sermon Canon Ann Nickson

*Afterwards, a short period of silent reflection is kept*

Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers conclude with*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As we celebrate his coming amongst us that first Christmas 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.  
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**

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Hymn** (*recorded by St Martin's singers*)

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 tonight.

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 wondering love.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
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 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.

*Philips Brooke 1835-1893*

Spiritual Communion

Loving Lord, we know that you are with us wherever we are and that the Christmas message of love born in a manger speaks to our hearts especially in these difficult times. Since we cannot at this moment receive you in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, we ask you to open our eyes to your presence now in these quiet night time moments and in our daily lives, leading and guiding us in the week ahead. May we know that though we are physically separated from one another, we are united in your Spirit and we can never be separated from you. **Amen**

*A time of silence follows as we open our hearts to God.*

Anthem *(recorded by St Martin's Singers)* The Coventry Carol  
arr. Odgen

Closing Prayer

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**

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
And the blessing of God Almighty  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you and those you love,  
This Christmas and for evermore. **Amen.**

Closing hymn (Recorded by St Martin's singers)

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 the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the 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 Son 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!"

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sending Out

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

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