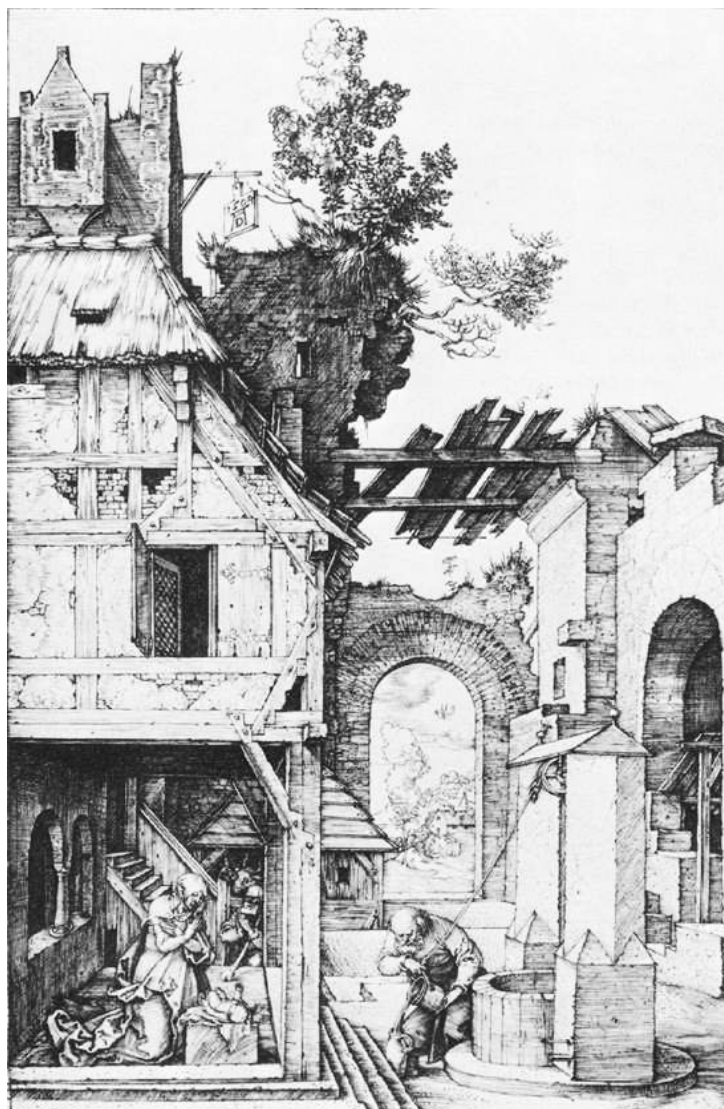


# ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET



## HIGH MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2024*

*11am*



§ *All stand when the sacristy bell rings.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

**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.

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 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.

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, and 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.**

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

## **FOREST GREEN**

English Traditional Melody

*Harm.* Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

**THE INTROIT** Puer natus est nobis

## **INTRODUCTION & GREETING**

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

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

Almighty God, **our heavenly Father, we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life to the glory of thy name.**  
**Amen.**

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.**

### **KYRIE ELEISON**

<b>K</b>	yrise eleison	Lord, have mercy
	Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy
	Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy

### **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**G**lory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **MISSA BREVIS IN C**

Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

### **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING Isaiah 52.7-10

**H**ow beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

## PSALM 98

**O** sing unto the Lord a new song : for he hath done marvellous things. 2. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm : hath he gotten himself the victory. 3. The Lord declared his salvation : his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. 4. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel : and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God. 5. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands : sing, rejoice, and give thanks. 6. Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving. 7. With trumpets also, and shawms : O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King. 8. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is : the round world, and they that dwell therein. 9. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord : for he is come to judge the earth. 10. With righteousness shall he judge the world : and the people with equity.

## THE EPISTLE Hebrews 1.1-6

**L**ong ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 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'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

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

§ *All stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A hallowed day hath dawned upon the earth; come, ye nations, and worship the Lord: for on this day a great Light hath descended upon the earth.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL John 1.1-18

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

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

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**I**n 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.

§ *All genuflect.*

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.

§ *All stand.*

(John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

§ *All sit.*

## **THE SERMON**

Fr Peter Anthony, *The Vicar*



§ *All stand.*

## THE CREED

**I** believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heav'n and earth, of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heav'n,

§ *All genuflect.*

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,

§ *All stand.*

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heav'n, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

## THE OFFERTORY

### MOTET

Hodie Christus natus est:	<i>Today Christ is born:</i>
Hodie Salvator apparuit:	<i>Today the Saviour appeared:</i>
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli	<i>Today on Earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice:</i>
Hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo.	<i>Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest.</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>

*Magnificat antiphon for second Vespers of Christmas Day*

Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck, 1562-1621

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at thy hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Grant, O Lord, we pray thee: that the offerings, which on this day's festival we present unto thee, may be acceptable in thy sight; that by thy bounteous goodness vouchsafed unto us in this holy exchange, we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our substance is united unto thee; who liveth and reigneth, world without end. **Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

## **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS**

**H**oly, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory,  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

*The canon concludes:*

O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**O**ur 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.**

## AGNUS DEI

**O** Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

§ *As the choir sings the Agnus, the celebrant shows the consecrated host to the people, saying:*

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

§ *All respond:*

**Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION CHANT *Viderunt omnes fines terræ*

§ *Anyone baptized in the name of the Trinity may receive Holy Communion. It is distributed at the High Altar, and at the Lady Altar in the North Aisle. Gluten-free Hosts are available at the latter, which also involves no steps.*

## COMMUNION 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!*

**God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created: O come...**

**Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? O come...**

**Godhead and Manhood, Sacrament most holy!  
Here is our Beth'lem - angels worship thee here.  
Altar and Manger, one eternal moment. *O come...***

**Yea Lord we greet thee, living on this altar  
Jesu to thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father, Flesh and Blood now giving. *O come...***

Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century

*Tr* Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

*with local additions*

**ADESTE FIDELES**

J.F. Wade, 1711-1786

### **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God our Father, whose Word hath come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: grant that the light of faith may illumine our hearts and shine in all our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

§ *All respond: Amen.*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **FINAL HYMN**

**G**od rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His Mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

TRADITIONAL

**GOD REST YOU MERRY**  
London Carol Melody  
*Harm.* John Stainer, 1840-1901

## THE ANGELUS

**T**he Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

**And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

And the Word was made flesh.

**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his ☩ cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

**Sinfonia from Cantata 29**

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

*arr.* Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971



Donations to the Mission and Ministry of All Saints' can be made using this QR code, or the card machine at the back of church.

*Thank you, and Happy Christmas!*