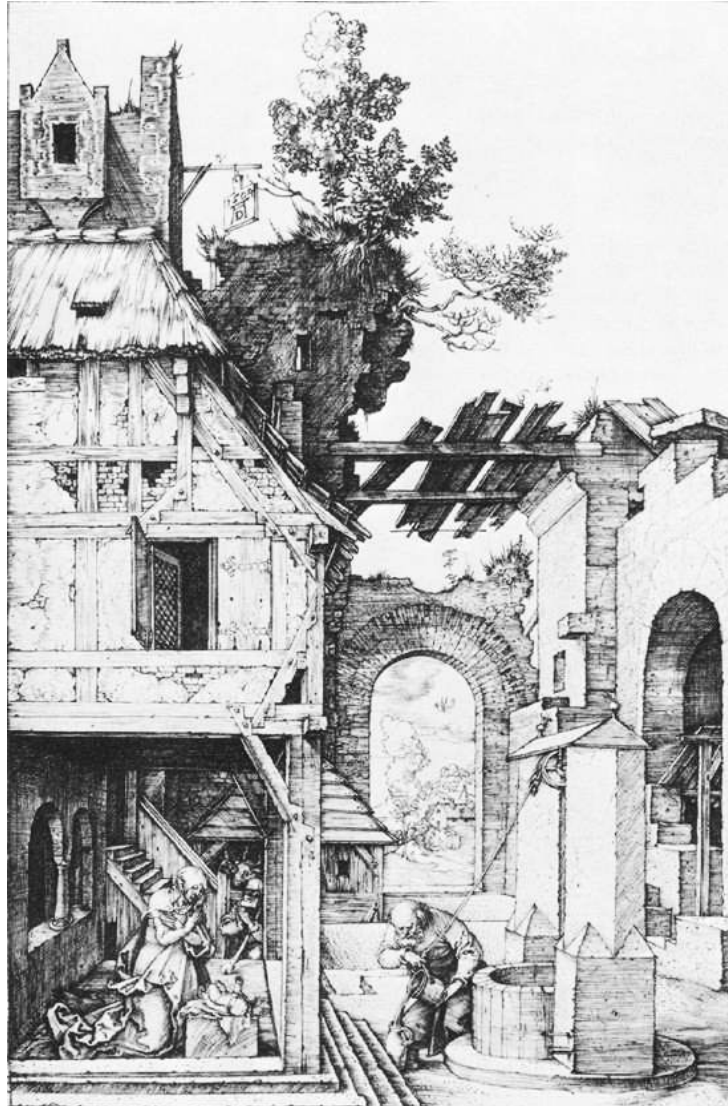


# ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET



## MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2024*

*11pm*



§ *All stand when the sacristy bell rings.*

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN

**O**f the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophesy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-413  
*Tr* R.F. Davis, 1866-1937

## **DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

*Melody from Piaae Cantiones*

Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582

**THE INTROIT** Dominus dixit ad me

## **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> yrie eleison	Lord, have mercy
Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy
Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory 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 D K194

W. A. Mozart, 1756-1791

## THE COLLECT

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of thy one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of thy heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING Isaiah 9.1-7

**B**ut there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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.

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

### **PSALM 96.1-3, 11-13**

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
2. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
12. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
13. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

## **THE EPISTLE** Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

§ *All stand.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord saith unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2.1-14

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

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

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

**I**n 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!’

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

## **THE SERMON**

Fr Alan Rimmer, the Assistant Priest

§ *All stand.*

## **THE CREED**

**I** believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heav'n and earth, of all things visible and invisible:  
**A**nd 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**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all on whom his favour rests.

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

## THE OFFERTORY

### MOTET

As I walked down the road at set of sun,  
The lambs were coming homeward one by one,  
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them  
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,  
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.  
She sang about the lambs at close of day  
And rocked her tiny King among the hay

Across the air the silver sheepbell rang,  
“The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang,  
“Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky,  
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”

As I walked down the road at set of sun,  
The lambs were coming homeward one by one,  
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them  
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Margaret Rose, 1888-1958

**The Little Road to Bethlehem**

Michael Head, 1900-1976

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.**

*The preface continues.*

## 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.

*The canon continues.*

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 shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION CHANT *Verbum caro factum est*

§ *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, where gluten-free Hosts are available and which involves no steps.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

**I**t 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, good will to men,  
From heaven's 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 heavenly music floats

O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering 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.

Edmund Sears, 1810-1876

**NOEL**

Traditional English Melody

*adapted* Arthur Sullivan, 1842-1900

## **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father, who in this night hast made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the dawning of the day when Christ the Morning Star shall rise in our hearts; to whom be glory both now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

§ *All respond: Amen.*

## FINAL HYMN

**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 newborn 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:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.*

*The Crib, blessed earlier at the Vigil Mass, is now censed.*

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come and worship the Lord.

**For a great light has shone on the earth.**

Hear the Wisdom of Solomon.

“For while all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, thine almighty Word leapt down from heaven, out of thy royal throne.”

Hear the words of Saint John.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**Thanks be to God.**

*Let us pray.*

To thee, O Christ Child, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly prayers and humble thanks; for love of our human race thou most wonderfully chose to be born of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by; that we might be born again by thy Holy Spirit and restored in the image of God; to whom, one blessed Trinity, be given all honour, might, majesty and power, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

Go in the peace of Christ.

§ *All respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

*As the Sacred Ministers retire, the final hymn resumes:*

**Come, Desire of nations, come,  
Fix in us thy humble home;  
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head;  
Now display thy saving power,  
Ruined nature now restore,  
Now in mystic union join  
Thine to ours, and ours to thine:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.***

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 we 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 newborn King.*

Charles Wesley 1707-1788  
*and others*

**MENDELSSOHN**

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809-1847

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

**Toccata-Gigue on Sussex Carol**

George C. Baker, b.1951



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!*