

**Christmas I
Sunday 31st December 2023
Parish Eucharist
Thorne – Mass of St. Thomas**

Welcome

The congregation is welcomed informally before the service begins concluding with an invitation to reflect in quiet.

Processional Hymn

please stand

**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!
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**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

remain standing

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
and we beheld his glory

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

The president invites the congregation to sit and introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria

please stand

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Refrain**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Refrain

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Refrain

The Collect

we remain standing

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading *Luke 2. 15-21*

We all stand to face the Deacon as they prepare to read the Gospel.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

At the end of the reading:

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

Sermon

please sit

The Creed

please stand

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

The Peace

please stand

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

A cash collection will be passed around if you would like to leave a cash donation. Alternatively, please use our contactless Card reader in the entrance lobby.

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:**

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far:
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:**

Refrain

**And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from country far:
To seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wheresoever it went:
*Refrain***

**This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay:
*Refrain***

**Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
both gold and myrrh and frankincense:
*Refrain***

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:
*Refrain***

The president takes the bread and wine says:

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the offering of your Church
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 president praises God for his mighty acts:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The president recalls the last supper, and we use this acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues and ends with praise to God to which everyone responds:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

please sit

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.

Breaking of The Bread

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.

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The president and people receive communion.

If you would like to receive communion, you are very welcome to do so. If you prefer not to please come to the altar for a blessing, holding this service book as a sign. Someone will indicate when to come up.

Communion Hymn

please sit

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Belovèd
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him –
Give my heart.

Prayers After Communion

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Notices

please sit

Blessing

please stand

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Recessional Hymn

God 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:

Refrain:

*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:

Refrain

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:

Refrain

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:

Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

Organ Voluntary

Please stay and join us for refreshments!