

Christmas DAY

2024

*Gloria to God
in the highest.....*



The Welcome

Merry Christmas
May the Lord our Emmanuel be with you
and also with you

Carol:

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 heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing:

Prayer of Confession

**Father we acknowledge that we have not loved
as you would have us love. We turn to you again
and ask for your mercy, forgive us and renew us
through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen**

The minister declares God's forgiveness

God who is both power and love,

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,

And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading from Mathew 1 v 18 –23

When it is announced we say:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"

At end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

A thought for today

Carol:

AWAY IN A MANGER, NO CRIB FOR A BED,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,

But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:

I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky

And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay

Close by me forever and love me, I pray;

Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

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 him thanks and praise.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,

born of the Virgin Mary.

He emptied himself, taking on our human form,

so that through his incarnation and passion

we might come to share in his divine nature.

As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the birth of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.

In Jesus our Emmanuel you have come to us,

and lived for a time among us,

that we might for ever live with you.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,

desiring to complete the work

for which he came into the world,

we remember at supper with his disciples

he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my Body:

it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
"Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you,
and for all, that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised
into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages, world without end.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world
Lord, unite us in this sign.

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever.
Amen.**

The Distribution of Communion

*Everyone is welcomed to receive the gift of bread and wine this evening
When receiving communion please come forward and Sanitise your hands
before, receiving the elements of bread and wine*

Prayer after communion

**God our Father,
you have made known to us again the birth of our Lord Jesus:
strengthen our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory for ever and ever.
Amen**

The Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you this day
and with those you gather with this Christmastide
Amen

CAROL JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD HAS 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 streams and 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,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

The Dismissal

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the name Christ Amen



*On behalf of the Congregations of St Leonard's and St Mary's
we pray you have a Merry Christmas*

*We also warmly invite you to join with us throughout the year
as we learn more about this new born King.*

Sunday 29th December
a joint service at 10am in St Leonard's

Sunday 5th January
joint Epiphany Service at St Mary's

*Weekly Sunday Services at 10am at both churches resume
from Sunday 12th January*

