



PARISH OF ALL SAINTS', CARSHALTON

MIDNIGHT MASS &
BLESSING OF THE CRIB

President: Fr David Fisher, Rector of Carshalton
Preacher: the Very Revd Laura Haupt, Hon Assistant

Ireland, Communion Service in C
Holst, In the bleak midwinter
Holst, Lullay my liking
Pearsall, In dulci jubilo

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

A WARM WELCOME

to Carshalton Parish Church this Christmas Eve –
whether you're a regular worshipper or visiting, it's a delight to
have you with us on this patch of holy ground where God has
been worshipped since Saxon times

Baptised Christians from any Christian tradition are warmly
invited to receive Holy Communion today.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing from the priest,
please bring this booklet with you.

There will not be a collection during this service. However,
there are contactless devices and donation boxes for cash at
both doors; alternatively, one off donations can be made by using
this QR code:



Please ensure that mobile 'phones are turned to silent.

Organ Prelude
Pietro A. Yon Pastorale 'Gesù Bambino' (on Adeste Fidelis)

THE GATHERING

Please STAND as the sacristy bell rings to sing the Entrance carol:

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

The procession pauses at the Crib for the President to bless it:

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night thy Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless ✠ this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen.

The procession restarts and the President censes the altar.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: Christina Alexander

Tune: *Irby*, Henry Gauntlett, harm. Arthur Henry Mann, desc, David Willcocks

The President greets everyone:

Brothers and sisters, we gather for worship 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.

The President adds other words of welcome and then the Deacon introduces the Prayers of Confession:

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.

The choir sings Kyrie Eleison:

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

*[Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.]*

We then pray:

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The President pronounces the Absolution:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,

and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins

that you may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The choir sings 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, Jesus 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 the Most High, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

In silence we pray.

Silent prayer; then the President prays the Collect for the Day.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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

Please SIT

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

How 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.

Isaiah 52:7-10

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long 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.

Hebrews 1:1-4

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND to sing the Gradual Carol:

Silent night, holy night,
Sall is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child
holy infant so tender and mild:

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr 1792-1848

Tune: *Stille nacht*, Franz Gruber 1787-1863

We sing the Acclamation, which heralds the Gospel:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
- lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The choir sings the verse:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Repeat the Acclamation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
- lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The lights in church are dimmed and the congregational candles are lit. Please turn to face the Gospeller. Then:

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spirit.

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

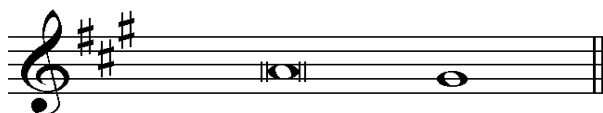


Glory be to thee, O Lord

In 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. 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.

John 1:1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to thee O Christ.

An organ fanfare sounds, in honour of the Gospel and the church lights come back on; please blow your candles out CAREFULLY. The address follows.

We pause briefly to reflect on what we've heard, then STAND for the Creed:

**I believe in one God
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and 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 heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,
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 heaven,
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 shall 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.**

The prayers of intercession follow:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

After each bidding is used:

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

The prayers end

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please STAND

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's Peace.

The Altar is prepared, during which we sing the Offertory Carol:

Of 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 the 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 revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the storm and summer sunshine,
gilding 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.

Words: Prudentius 348-413

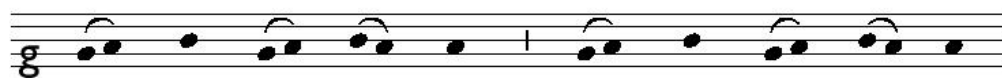
Tune: *Divinum Mysterium*, melody from *Piae Cantiones* 1582

The president takes the bread and wine and says:

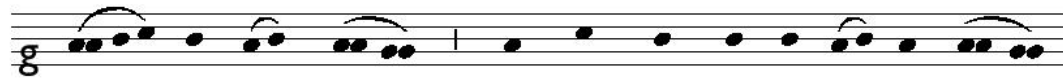
Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you
embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

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

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer for the praise and
glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**



The Lord be with you **R.** and with thy spi-rit.



Lift up your hearts. **R.** We lift them up un-to the Lord.



Let us give thanks un - to the Lord our God.



R. It is meet and right so to do.

The President continues the prayer, thanking God for all his saving works, and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven:

(...and sing our joyful hymn of praise:)

The Choir sings Sanctus and Benedictus:

Holy, 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 President continues the prayer, repeating the Lord's own words over the bread and wine and asks the Father to send the Spirit on them to sanctify them. Then:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The President continues, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself. At the end:

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Musical notation for "Amen" in 4/4 time, G major. The first line has four measures: R. A - men, C. A - men, R. A - men, C. A - men. The second line has two measures: R. A - - - men, C. A - - - men.

Silence

Rejoicing in God's presence here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us, in the language of our choice:

Our Father, who art in heaven,...

Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt y nefoedd

Notre père, qui es aux cieux.....

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지....

Vater unser, der du bist im Himmel....

Nna-ayi, Nke bi n'elu-igwe....

The President breaks the consecrated bread:

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The choir sings 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.

The President holds up the consecrated elements and invites all to receive Holy Communion:

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

All taking part online are encouraged to make their Spiritual Communion, using the following prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, grant, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of your servant may be healed by faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through your tender mercy, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit ever one God, world without end. Amen.

During the administration, the choir sings the following motets:

*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.*

*Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
A breast-ful of milk, and a manger-ful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim throned the air
But only his mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved 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.*

Words: Christina Rossetti 1830-94

Music: Gustav Holst 1874-1934

*I saw a fair maiden Sitten and sing: She lulléd a little child, A sweeté
lording.
Lullay my liking, My dear son, my sweeting; Lullay my dear heart, Mine
own dear darling*

*That eternal lord is he That made allé thing; Of allé lordés he is Lord Of
allé kinges King.
Lullay my liking, ...*

*There was mickle melody At that childés birth: Though the songsters
were heavenly They madé mickle mirth.
Lullay my liking, ...*

*Angels bright they sang that night And saiden to that child, "Blessed be
thou and so be she That is both meek and mild."
Lullay my liking, ...*

*Pray we now to that child, And to his mother dear, God grant them all
his blessing That now maken cheer.
Lullay my liking, ...*

Words: 15th cent English

Tune: Gustav Holst 1874-1934

*In dulci jubilo Let us our homage show Our heart's joy reclineth In
praesepio And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio Alpha es et O.*

*O Jesu parvule I yearn for thee always Listen to my ditty O puer optima
Have pity on me, pity O princeps gloriae, Trahe me post te.*

*O patris caritas O nati lenitas Deeply were we stained Per nostra criminal
But thou hast for us gained Coelorum gaudia O that we were there.*

*Ubi sunt gaudia If that they be not there There are angels singing Nova
cantica There the bells are ringing In regis curia O that we were there.*

Words: medieval German
trans Robert Pearsall 1795-1856

Tune: Robert Pearsall 1795-1856

Once all have received Holy Communion, we keep a few moments of SILENT PRAYER. The President then prays the Post Communion Prayer:

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm 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 both now and for ever.
Amen.

Please STAND

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the
world, shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and
heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you this Christmas and always.

Amen

*We sing the final carol, during which the altar party and choir process to the west
end:*

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,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

Words: 8th century Latin, trans. Frederick Oakeley

Tune: *Adeste Fidelis*, trad. English carol, arr. David Willcocks

At the end, please turn to face the West door as the Deacon dismisses the Eucharistic assembly:

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

***Organ Voluntary
Denis Bédard, Toccata sur “Il est né, le divin Enfant”, from Deux Noël***

Please take this booklet away with you.

A Happy, Blessed and healthy Christmas to you all!

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England and Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, are copyright © The Archbishops' Council, 2000-2006. New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Sundays All Saints' -

a living church, where God has been worshipped for 1200 years

0900 : All Age Mass

a more informal service, but with incense, lasting about 45 minutes, with young children in mind; followed by refreshments.

1030 : High Mass with Sunday & Crypt Clubs

a more formal 'Cathedral style' liturgy with our robed choir; Sunday & Crypt Clubs for Primary & Secondary age children meet during this service; followed by refreshments.

1830 : Sung Evening Prayer

a quiet, contemplative service from the Book of Common Prayer, lasting about 30 minutes.

On the first Sunday of each month in term time, this is replaced by Choral Evensong, sung by the Choir.

A warm welcome awaits you!

www.carshaltonallsaints.org