

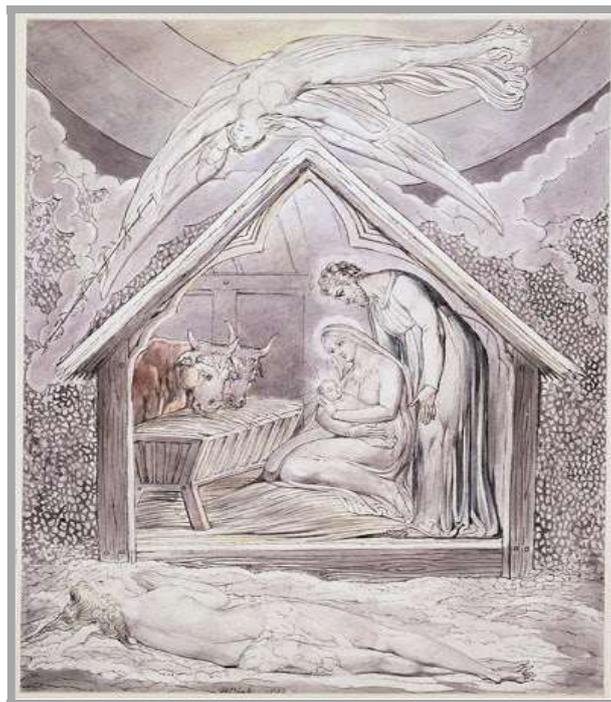


The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert

The Eucharist of Christmas Day 25th

December 2020 at 10.00 am

Welcome to our Festal Eucharist of Christmas Day



The Morning of Christ's Nativity by William Blake (1757-1827)

**Bolton Priory wishes everyone a joyful and blessed
Christmas**

The Order of Service

Organ Voluntary

Pastorale - César Franck (1822-1890) played by Frederick Hohman on the organ at Third Baptist Church, St. Louis

The Welcome

Rector A very warm welcome to our Christmas Day service. In this troubled year, we can at least proclaim with certainty that the Christ child is born today, and dwells among us. We give thanks for his birth. We give thanks for his time on earth amongst us, and we look forward to Christ coming again. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light, the true light which enlightens everyone.

Introit

A great and mighty wonder - Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Hymn

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn - John Wainwright (1723-1768) choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, conducted by Roger Judd with Jonathan Rees-Williams at the organ.

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born.
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above,
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

The Prayer for the lighting of the Christmas candle

Rector God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All Amen.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard th' angelic herald's voice, "Behold
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth,
To you and all the nations upon the earth;
This day hath God fulfilled His promised Word;
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

He spake, and straightway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heav'n's whole orb with alleluias rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth, and unto men good will.

John Byrom (1692-1763)

The Greeting

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

All and with thy spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Rector Let us pray.
Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The Prayer of Preparation

Rector And we say together:

All **Almighty God,**
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Summary of the Law

Rector Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,
and with all thy strength.
This is the first commandment.
And the second is like, namely this:
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
There is none other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,**
and write all these thy laws in our hearts,
we beseech thee.

The Collect for the Queen

Rector Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, that she, (knowing whose minister she is), may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all her subjects, (duly considering whose authority she hath), may faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey her, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of Christmas Day

Rector 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 the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9: 2-7

Reader 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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn

Joy to the world! The Lord is come - George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), Huddersfield Choral Society, conducted by Awel Hughes, with David Bell at the organ

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 world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, 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,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

The Gospel - St John 1: 1-14

Rector The Holy Gospel is written in the first Chapter of the Gospel according to St John, beginning at the first verse.

All Glory be to thee, O Lord

Rector 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 amongst us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Creed

Rector Let us proclaim our faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All 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 and 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 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 Sermon

The Rector - "The Word made flesh"

The Anthem

Dormi Jesu, - John Rutter (1945-) The Cambridge Singers with the City of London Sinfonia, conducted by John Rutter

The Offertory

Rector All things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee. (1 Chronicles 9: 14)

Hymn

O come all ye faithful - J F Wade (1711 -1786) choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by Stephen Cleobury, with Benjamin Bayl at the organ

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, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

*Latin, 18th Century
tr. F Oakeley (1802-1880)*

The Intercession

Rector And let us pray.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant, that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other kind of adversity.

And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate.

All **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Rector Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

And we say together:

***All* Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
we acknowledge and bewail
our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we, from time to time,
most grievously have committed,
by thought, word and deed,
against thy divine majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Rector Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All* Amen.**

The Comfortable Words

Rector Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all they that truly turn to him:

Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

(Matthew 11.28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3.16)

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *(1 Timothy 1.15)*

Hear also what Saint John saith:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins. *(1 John 2.1,2)*

The Preface

Rector The Lord be with you.

All and with thy spirit.

Rector Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Rector Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

All It is meet and right so to do.

Rector It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and singing:

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus and Benedictus - Harold Darke (1888 - 1976) from the Communion Service in F, choir of Wakefield Cathedral, conducted by Jonathan Bielby, with Keith Wright at the organ.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Rector And we say the Prayer of Humble Access together:

All We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.
But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration

Rector Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and he gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me".

A bell is rung

Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me".

All Amen.

A bell is rung

The invitation

Rector Draw near with faith, receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink In remembrance that he died and lives for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

The Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei - Harold Darke (1888 – 1976) from the Communion Service in F, choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, conducted by Paul Trepte.

Anthems

See Amid the Winter's Snow, - John Goss (1800 - 1880) choir of St Paul's Cathedral, conducted by John Scott

And the Glory of the Lord – George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759) Stockholm Kammerkören, conducted by Nikolas Harnoncourt, with the orchestra of Concentus Musicus Wien

The Lord's Prayer

Rector As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

All **Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

The Prayer of Oblation

Rector O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and our bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, Father Almighty, world without end.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria

Gloria - Harold Darke (1685 – 1759) from the Communion Service in F, choir of Wakefield Cathedral, conducted by Jonathan Bielby, with Keith Wright at the organ.

The Blessing

Rector 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 almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Rector Go in peace and proclaim the birth.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels - Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)

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 new-born 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 new-born 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 man 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 new-born King.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Organ Voluntary

Dieu parmi nous (La Nativité du Seigneur) - Olivier Messiaen (1908 - 1992) played by Simon Preston

Spiritual Communion

We are delighted to welcome you to Bolton Priory for this service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day. Holy Communion has been celebrated, uninterrupted, at Bolton Priory for eight hundred and fifty years.

As a result of the crisis, we are currently unable to celebrate Holy Communion in the usual way by receiving the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ through the accidents of the bread and wine. We make our "Spiritual Communion" instead.

The term "Spiritual Communion" has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly "eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ" although we cannot physically receive the sacrament ourselves.

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