



St. Michael and All Angels Amersham on the Hill



CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

A warm welcome to this service

The celebration of Christ's incarnation is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies. *(Thomas Pestel)*

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. St. Michael's follows the contemporary use, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the feast of the Presentation on February 2nd.

The Gathering

Introit

Processional Hymn

Please stand, if able.

All This night is born Jesus, Son of the King of Glory.
This night is born to us the root of our joy.

All This night gleamed sea and shore together.
This night was born Christ, the King of Greatness.

The Greeting

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

Introduction and Welcome

Please sit.

Prayers of Penitence

Please remain seated or kneel.

Deacon The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We pause for confession.

All You were born for our salvation:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

All You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

All You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

President May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Please stand, if able

All **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.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

The Collect *The priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.*

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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52, 7-10

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.

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

The choir will sing the response first, then the congregation will repeat it.

Choir/All **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.

All **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.

All

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.

All

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.

Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

All

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1, 1-4

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.

Gradual Hymn

Please stand, if able.

Gospel Reading

Please turn to face the Gospel.

John 1, 1-14

All Alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

All Alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All The Lord be with you
and also with you

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, 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.

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

Please sit.

Sermon

Sung Affirmation of Faith

Please stand, if able.

All

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel to pray.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God

All

hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God

All

hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand (...and) all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the
darkness.
Bring comfort to (...and) all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand (...and) all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand, if able.

For those who would like to, you are welcome to join hands as we sing or say the Peace.

All **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.**

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The President takes the bread and wine.

Preparation of the Table

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing, if able.

All The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,.
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All

**Our 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

All

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

or

All **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

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

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
After receiving the bread and the wine please respond "Amen"
or, if you would like a blessing, please place your hands across
your chest.*

Post Communion Hymn

Please stand, if able.

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.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion (sung)

All **Lord, you have shown to us life that is real,
Jesus made known to us, sharing a meal.
Now in our every day, in all we do or say,
human in every way yourself reveal.**

Hymn

Your candle will be lit before the hymn. Please raise this during each refrain.

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:

Refrain:

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:

Refrain

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:

Refrain

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

The Dismissal

Blessing

Let us bless the living God.
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,
worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.
Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

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



May your Christmas be filled with happiness and blessings.

Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust. CCL No 908682.



SMAA 2025