



## St. Michael and All Angels Amersham on the Hill



### HOLY EUCHARIST CHRISTMASTIDE

#### ***A warm welcome to this service***

*This booklet is designed for use throughout Christmastide and includes guidance notes. Do please ask a "Welcomer" if you need any further help.*

As we know from the well-known Christmas song, there are 12 days of Christmas, extending our season of celebration of Christ's incarnation, the Word made flesh, Jesus coming to dwell among us as a tiny baby born in poverty. This is the wonderful mystery of Emmanuel ("God-with-us") yet it is also the season when several saints' days and festivals fall, often unnoticed.

The Feast of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is on 26<sup>th</sup> December and that for John, Apostle and Evangelist, on 27<sup>th</sup> December. The Holy Innocents, when King Herod decreed the killing of Jewish infants, are remembered on 28<sup>th</sup> December, and Thomas Becket, archbishop and martyr, on 29<sup>th</sup> December. On 1<sup>st</sup> January, to signify eight days after Christ's birth, the Church celebrates the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus, and on 2<sup>nd</sup> January two of the giants of the Early Church are remembered, Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops and teachers of the faith.

## The Gathering

### Processional Hymn

*Please stand, if able.*

### The Greeting

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

*Revelation 22.13*

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.  
**and also with you.**

*All*

### Acclamation

You have given us life,  
and we welcome your coming.

*All*

**Be with us, Lord,  
we have joy, we have joy.**

This year is a new year,  
the opening door.

*All*

**Be with us, Lord,  
we have joy, we have joy.**

*Please sit.*

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

### Invitation to Confession

*Deacon*

Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Please remain seated or kneel.*

*We pause for confession.*

### Confession

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

*All*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

*All* Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution**

*President* May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,  
forgive you your sins,  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*Please stand, if able.*

*All sing* **We join with the angels, our voices we raise,  
to give you the glory, and sing forth your praise.  
We pray for the peace you alone can bestow,  
to fall down like rain on your people below.**

**O Lord God almighty, and heavenly King,  
accept the thanksgivings and praises we bring,  
for though you are mighty, the Lord God above,  
for us you are also the Father we love.**

**Christ Jesus, Messiah, and God's only Son,  
the Lamb who was slain, who now sits on heav'n's throne.  
Your death conquered evil and cancelled our sin,  
in mercy, receive all the prayers that we bring.**

**All glory to God in the highest of heaven,  
the Father, the Son, and the Spirit be given.  
To you and you only our praises we sing,  
our Lord God and Father, our heavenly King.**

## The Collect

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

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit.*

*(Readings and Psalm on Notice Sheet)*

### Old or New Testament Reading

For the word of the Lord

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn

*Please stand, if able.*

### Gospel Reading

*Please turn to face the Gospel.*

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

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

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

*(cf John 1.14)*

The Lord be with you

*All*

**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*

*All*

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel is proclaimed.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon



## **Affirmation of Faith**

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.**

*(cf Ephesians 3)*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In a world of change and hope,  
of fear and adventure,  
faithful God,  
**glorify your name.**

*All*

In human rebellion and obedience,  
in our seeking and our finding,  
faithful God,  
**glorify your name.**

*All*

In the common life of our society,  
in prosperity and need,  
faithful God,  
**glorify your name.**

*All*

As your Church proclaims your goodness  
in words and action,  
faithful God,  
**glorify your name.**

*All*

Among our friends  
and in our homes,  
faithful God,  
*All* **glorify your name.**

In our times of joy,  
in our days of sorrow,  
faithful God,  
*All* **glorify your name.**

In our strengths and triumphs,  
in our weakness and at our death,  
faithful God,  
*All* **glorify your name.**

In your saints in glory,  
and on the day of Christ's coming,  
faithful God,  
*All* **glorify your name.**

## **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.*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*(Isaiah 9.6)*

*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

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

*All*

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer G

The Lord is here.

*All*

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.



At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
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.



*Deacon*      Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with St. Michael and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
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, let us pray, in our own language, 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**

*The president leads.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*All*            The people who walked in darkness  
**have seen a great light.**

*All*            For to us a child is born  
**to us a Son is given.**

*All*            His name will be called  
**Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,**

*All*            the everlasting Father,  
**the Prince of Peace.**

*All*            Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

*Notices and Banns*

## The Dismissal

### Blessing

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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



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.

