

HOLY TRINITY
HEADINGTON QUARRY



The First Eucharist of Christmas

Welcome!

Christmas is a celebration of the God who comes among us as the Word made flesh. Incarnation means that God has entered into all that it is to be human: our pain and our failures, as well as our joys and achievements. This service celebrates, and reflects on, Christ's coming into the world to bring God's light, life and love.

This service is a Eucharist (the word means *thanksgiving*), also known as the Mass or Holy Communion. It is the festal meal of the church, a foretaste of heaven. All are welcome to receive communion or to come forwards for a blessing instead. Gluten free wafers are available – if possible, please let one of the stewards know before the service if you require one.

Please join in the responses printed in **bold**. We hope you will feel welcome here and that you will encounter the peace and joy of Christ.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

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 lonely 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.

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895)

The Gathering

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little One, whose all-embracing birth
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Richard Crashaw 1614-49

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

The Blessing of the Crib

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
your 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.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing draw you back to himself,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, and be restored in his image,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

(Melody: Angels from the Realms of Glory)

**Glory be to God in heaven
Peace on earth to all we sing
Heavenly king, Almighty Father
Worship, thanks and praise we bring.
Gloria in excelsis deo.
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,
Lamb of God, our sins you bear.
Seated in the Father's glory,
Grant us mercy, hear our prayer.
Gloria in excelsis deo.
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**You alone, O Christ, are holy;
You the Lord most high alone,
Jesus, with the Holy Spirit,
Reigning on the Father's throne.
Gloria in excelsis deo.
Gloria in excelsis deo**

The Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this holy night
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

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

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.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Carol

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Through all the earth, goodwill and peace
from heaven's all-gracious king!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long
and, since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong:
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and cease the strife,
to hear the angels sing!

And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life
with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love
which makes the heavens ring!
O rest besides the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on –
by prophets seen of old –
towards the fulness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed shall see
the prince of peace, their king;
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,

All and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!

When the Gospel is announced

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

John 1.1-14

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.

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand

Let us affirm our faith in the God who dwells in our midst.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of incarnation,
your angel host announces
that peace has been born among us, embodied in frail flesh.

With confidence in the power of that miracle,
we bring before you our prayers
for the church and the world. Let us pray.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' fields may be realised on every field of war and on every street of violence:

Give to your people the blessing of peace.

That the Prince of Peace may guide this nation and all nations in the ways of justice and of peace:

Lead us in the paths of righteousness and mercy.

That the child born in Bethlehem may wake us by his crying so that we might act lovingly in this suffering world:

Open our hearts to the needs of the poor.

That in this time of giving, we may become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and those who mourn:

Make our lives a gift of hope to all.

That the hope we celebrate this night may be the fulfilment of all who have gone before us in faith,

**Give your faithful people a share of your life,
O Christ, for all eternity.**

A time of silence is kept for our own prayers.

Light of life, you came in flesh,
born into human pain and joy,
and gave us power to be your children.

Grant us faith, Lord Jesus Christ, to see your presence among us, so that all creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

All may exchange a sign of Peace.

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks 1835-93

Tune: Forest Green English trad. melody, arr R Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

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 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,

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:

(Tune: See amid the winter's snow)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and of might.

All of heaven and earth are full

Of your glory, Lord most high.

Sing hosanna to the Lord,

Sing hosanna to our God.

Let us join creation's praise;

Let us now our voices raise.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life
and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with blessed Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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.**

Agnus Dei

(tune: The first Nowell)

**O Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world
Have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world
Have mercy on us**

**O, Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world
O grant us your peace.**

Breaking of the 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.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ is the bread
which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread for ever.

This is God's table and all are welcome. The bread is distributed from the chancel step, and the wine is distributed from the lady chapel step. Stewards will be on hand to direct you! If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak midwinter
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 midwinter
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 midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a manger full 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
thronged the air,

but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Belovèd
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.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Prayer after Communion

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 forever.
Amen.

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: *O come...*

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps: *O come...*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest: *O come...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
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.*

tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the magi,
the love of Joseph and Mary
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

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***We wish you all a Holy and Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year!***

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

from 'Christmas' by Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984)



Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

*An open door between heaven and earth,
showing God's love to all.*

PRAYER FOR THE VACANCY

God of vision and hope,
we thank you for all
who have ministered here
throughout the history of this church.
In this time of vacancy,
we pray for our churchwardens,
Margaret and Linda,
for our vacancy oversight group and PCC,
for all involved in discerning
the next chapter of our church's life;
may we continue to grow in love,
share in responsibility,
and seek your vision for our future,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
our shepherd and our guide.
Amen.

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

*An open door between heaven and earth,
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As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

Contact us

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