

**CHARLTON BENEFICE
MIDNIGHT MASS ONLINE
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020**

We are welcomed to the service and sing the first carol

Hymn - Once in royal David's city

The president greets the people.

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

All **and also with you.**

Blessing of the Crib

President 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 [*day*]
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.**

Prayers 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.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,

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

All **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.

Lord, have mercy.

All **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

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer:

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas
celebration that our joy in the birth of
Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness
with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that

we long for and fill our hearts
with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – read by Akil

A reading from the prophet 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.

at the end of the reading ...

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

New Testament Reading – read by Revd Adelaide

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.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?
Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'
Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'
But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'
And,
'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.'

at the end of the reading ...

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

Please stand.

Hymn to greet the Gospel - It came upon the midnight clear

Gospel – read by Nick

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

All **Alleluia.**

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

All **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.

at the end of the Gospel ...

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

Sermon – preached by Revd Bennett

After the sermon, there is a period of quiet reflection.

The Creed

President Let us declare our faith in God.
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and

was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and
is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession – led by Deborah

Please sit. The congregation is led in these or other intercessions.

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

All **hear our prayer.**
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Intercessor God our Father,
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.**

Intercessor God our Father,
Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your
Son to birth. Hold in your hand
all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God our Father,
your Christ came as a light shining
in the darkness. Bring comfort to all
who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God our Father,
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.**

Intercessor God our Father,
shepherds in the field heard good tidings
of joy. Give us grace to preach
the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God our Father,
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.**

Intercessor God our Father,
heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those
who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God our Father,
Christians the world over
celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts
that he may be born in us today.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God our Father,
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

President 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*)
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

President

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn - Hark! the herald angels sing

Please consider making a donation to our churches even though we are not worshipping in person

Preparation of the Table

President 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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

President 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.**

President 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And now we give you thanks because,
in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you
in your glorious kingdom.

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.

Bring us at the last with Luke and
Richard, Thomas 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:

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

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God
here among us,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.
All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated 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

**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.**

The Giving of Communion

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

Prayer before Distribution

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.**

**Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
from under your table.
But you, Lord,
are the God of our salvation
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us with the precious
body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

Music during Communion: Stille Nacht, sung by Maria Pechnig, accompanied by John Dawson

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

President 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.
All **Amen.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope
you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth
live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Blessing and Sending Out

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

President 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.**

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

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

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

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

Recessional Hymn - O come, all ye faithful

Our worship is over: our service begins.

A Joyful Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone!

