

CHARLTON BENEFICE
First Sunday of Christmas
Parish Eucharist

THE GATHERING

Michael welcomes people to worship

Introit hymn 4: O little town of Bethlehem

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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Michael 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.**

*Minister
of the
Word* 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.**

*Minister
of the
Word* 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

**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 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.

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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

Old Testament Reading – read by Michael

Michael – a reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

at the end of the reading ...

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

New Testament Reading – read by Tim

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

at the end of the reading ...

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

Gradual hymn 26: See Him lying on a bed of straw

Gospel Reading – read by Pat

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

at the end of the Gospel ...

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

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

The Creed

Please stand.

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 Juliana

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.
The peace of the Lord be always with
you

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn no 20: Good King Wenceslas look'd out

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 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.

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.

All **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.**

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.**

Communion carol 22: In the bleak mid-winter

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion is said.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: you're your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES – given by Liz

President God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister
of the
Word

**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

Please stand.

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 16: Joy to the world, the Lord has come

Our worship is over: our service begins.

A Joyful Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone!