

CHARLTON BENEFICE
Christmas Morning

THE GATHERING

Roberta welcomes people to worship

Introit hymn 10: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

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

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning only

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 *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

Roberta 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at
Bethlehem draws us to kneel in
wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we
worship you, our Saviour and our
eternal God.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – read by Roberta

Roberta – 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 Ali

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.

Gradual hymn 14: Christians awake, salute the happy morn

Gospel Reading – read by Jean

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 John

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

*Please sit. 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.

Liz – Deborah is leading intercessions

Prayers of Intercession – led by Deborah

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.

Carol no 12: Hark! the herald-angels sing

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 7: Away in a manger

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.

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 13: O Come, all ye faithful

Our worship is over: our service begins.

A Joyful Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone!