

**BENEFICE LIVESTREAMED SERVICE
CHRISTMAS MORNING 2023
THE GATHERING**

Yvonne welcomes people to worship

Introit Hymn

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 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

Minister Christ the light of the world has come to
of the dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Word 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 Yvonne

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

New Testament Reading – read by Isla

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

at the end of the reading ...

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

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading – read by Peter

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 those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

at the end of the Gospel ...

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon – Revd Liz

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.**

Bennett - now Roberta will offer prayers on our behalf

Prayers of Intercession – led by Roberta

- 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.**
- 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.**
God our Father,
- Intercessor* 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.**

President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

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.

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.**

During communion the choir sing Ring out the bells.

Communion hymn

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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

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