

**Charlton Benefice Livestreamed Service
First Sunday of Christmas**

The Gathering

Michael 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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Minister of the Word 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.

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

All *The Collect of the day is read*
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING – read by Michael

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

New Testament Reading – read by Fiona

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Gradual Hymn

The Gospel read by Gloria

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.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon – Revd Bennett

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 Judith

Lord Jesus, you gave your all to the world
in the bleakness of that stable.
Love was born that day.
Pure love, undiluted, poured out for all who call on Your name
Such Grace, undeserved, deserves a response in the life that we lead.
Forgive our ingratitude for all you have done.
Draw us to your Word,
give us a new song to sing, that will resonate throughout this world.
And begin with us today. Amen

Circle us, Lord
Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world
Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation
Enable us to be victors over sin and despair
Enable us to become that which you would desire

Silence

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Circle us, Lord
Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms
Protect them in each moment of their daily lives
Protect them in the decisions that they face
Protect their homes and relationships

Silence

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Circle us, Lord
Circle this nation with love and hope
Create a desire to listen to the Christmas message
Create a willingness to understand and respond
Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child
Silence

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

Circle us, Lord
Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation
Where there is sickness and disease bring healing
Where there is hunger and despair bring hope
Where there is torture and oppression bring release

Silence

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

Shout for joy the whole earth,
and everything within.
Rejoice!
For Light has come into the world

The mountains sing, the seas resound to the praise of your name.
Salvation once promised is here on earth

The angels' song rings in the air,
a child has been born.
Hallelujah! The Saviour of the world is here

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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.

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 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