

CHARLTON
ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

Eucharist for Christmastide



WELCOME

Everyone is welcome at St Luke's and St Thomas's for the celebration of our Parish Eucharist. Here we

- gather and prepare to worship God
- confess the ways in which we have let God down
- receive God's forgiveness
- listen to Scripture and to God's word being broken open for us
- affirm what we believe
- pray for the church, the world, our community, those in need and the departed
- share Christ's peace and make our offerings
- celebrate Holy Communion
- receive the bread and wine
- lift our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving
- pause in silence and stillness where God's presence is often felt most powerfully
- receive God's blessing and are sent out to love and serve God

We hope that everyone who comes will encounter God here and leave with a desire to walk faithfully with Jesus, guided by the Spirit.

Children and young people are very precious to God and we are striving to reflect that truth in our church communities. In both our churches there are special arrangements for children. Please ask if you want to know more.

We want those taking part in our service to reflect our church communities. If you would like to read, sing, intercede, be a welcomer or serve at the altar, then please make that known to one of the clergy.

Jesus's love knows no bounds, and he has asked us to share the Good News outside our church circles. We want to grow our congregations; that means all of us having a 'culture of invitation' – being prepared to speak well of our church family and invite others to 'come and see'. St Luke's and St Thomas's are committed to all those who don't know God's great love for them – this is why we have a Mission Action Plan. More details about our vision, our mission, our values and priorities can be found in church.

We are in the season of Christmas. Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus's birth. Our task during Christmas is to remember, in the midst of all the joyful customs and celebrations, the central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. The liturgical colour is gold or white.

THE GATHERING

Please stand.

Introit Hymn

The president greets the people.

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

All

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
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.

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.

Amen.

All

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading

at the end of the reading ...

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

New Testament Reading

at the end of the reading ...

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

Please stand.

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

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 *N*

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

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

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

*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.**

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.**
President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn a collection is taken
for the work and mission of the church,
and the gifts of the people are brought to the altar.*

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.**

**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.**

*All who usually receive Holy Communion, in this church
or another, are welcome to come to the altar now.
If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please
keep your head bowed and do not hold out your hands.*

Communion Hymn

Please remain seated.

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;**

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

Our worship is over: our service begins.

A Joyful Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone!



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND