

Very God, Begotten, not created:

**See how the Shepherds, Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw night with lowly fear;
We too will thither Bend our joyful footsteps:**

**Child for us sinners Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, in the Highest:**

Before the final verse the figure of the Christ Child is placed in the Manger and scene is blessed; we then sing the last verse.

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.**



Notices : Christmas Communion: Fr Mark is very willing to bring Holy Communion to the sheltering. Please encourage those who continue to shelter to contact Fr Mark to receive Holy Communion. **The Carol Service this year is online.** A huge thanks to all those who recorded material for this service. **Giving at St George's:** now is the time to consider if you would like to top-up your giving to St George's for this tax year. If you pay tax in France and give by either standing order or cheque, you can have up to 66% of your giving to St George's deducted from your income tax liability. More details are available from Fr Mark or our Treasurer, Mike Orrin.

In Your Prayers please remember those on our sick-list: Mary Berg, Jean-Paul Buffet, Paul Bultez, Angela Casone, Anne Cozic, Jeanine & Caroline Cullinan, Gregor Dallas, Eric Benson, Mimi de Bentzmann-Fouilland, Isabelle Foulon, Ophélie Goubault, Irene Hicks, Prudence Kupka, Muriel Lamoureux, Amy Linton, Mirentxu Le Maire, Kenneth Nyakana, Bernadette Pédeflous, Simone Rabaud, Pascale Stephany, Grace Valéry, Margaret Woods, Anitha Yannick, Lucas, Margo, Alex and Max, Sarah, Maroussia, Laurence, Marie-Thérèse, Susan, David, Paul, Saul.

Those who have died: All who have died this year of Covid-19 .

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
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St George's, Paris

Midnight Mass of Christmas 2020

A warm welcome to St George's online worship this week. Everything you need for today's service you'll find in this pamphlet.

Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve 1730 Family Eucharist with Carols 2200 Midnight Mass of Christmas w Blessing of the Crib
Friday 25th	Christmas Day 0830 Holy Communion (1662) 1030 Solemn Mass with Prayers at the Crib 1615 Messe Malgache 1745 Messe Malgache
Saturday 26th	<i>Stephen, deacon</i> 1200 Mass
Sunday 27th	1st Sunday of Christmas 0830 Holy Communion (1662) 1030 Solemn Eucharist
Monday 28th	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
Tuesday 29th	<i>John, Apostle</i> 1800 Evensong 1830 Mass
Wednesday 30th	<i>Christmas Feria</i> 1200 Mass
Thursday 31st	<i>St Sylvester</i> 1800 Evensong 1830 Mass
Friday 1st	<i>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i> 1200 Mass
Saturday 2nd	<i>Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzus</i> 1200 Mass
Sunday 3rd	The Epiphany 0830 Holy Communion 1030 Solemn Mass 1630 Messe Malgache

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The Gathering

As the bell rings, we stand to sing.

**It came upon a midnight clear That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing!**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years, Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

Greeting

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

The celebration is introduced and we are invited to remember and confess our sins in preparation for our celebration together. The choir sings the Kyries.

Penitential Rite

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins.
For you Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

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

*I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.
Since I cannot receive you now sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my soul.
As though you were already there I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;
permit not that I should ever be separated from you. Amen.*

Please follow the directions of the Sides-people. During Communion the Choir sing the motet.

Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.**

**Come, Desire of nations come, Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the women's conquering Seed, Bruise in us the serpents head;
Now display thy saving power, Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to thine.**

Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

And may the blessing... always.

Amen

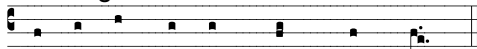
The Mass is ended. Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Thanks be to God.

After the Blessing and Dismissal the clergy and servers process with the figure of the Christ Child around the church.

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels.
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

The celebrant praises God for his mighty acts in the Preface and the Choir sings the Sanctus.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues until the Proclamation of Faith

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

*At the end of the prayer we all respond **Amen.** We remain standing to pray together*

Our Father,

who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Breaking of the bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God is here among us,

light in the midst of us,

bring us to light and life.

*As we prepare for Holy Communion the Choir sing the **Agnus Dei.***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread for ever.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion if you do so in your own church. If you would prefer, please come forward and bow your head for a blessing. If you don't want to receive Holy Communion you may like to use the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament,

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.

Please remain seated for the choir to sing the psalm appointed for this evening (Psalm 98).

*O sing unto the Lord a new song * for he hath done marvellous things. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm * hath he gotten himself the victory. The Lord declared his salvation * his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel * and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands * sing, rejoice, and give thanks. Praise the Lord upon the harp * sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving. With trumpets also, and shawms * O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is * the round world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord * for he is come to judge the earth. With righteousness shall he judge the world * and the people with equity.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

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.'

Gradual

**Silent night! Holy night! Heaven is near, earth is bright,
Angels songs are heard above As the Child of peace and love
Sleeps in Mary's arms, Sleeps in Mary's arms.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Skies are clear, stars are bright,
Now the shepherds wend their way, Homage to this Child to pay:
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Christ is here, all is light,
Shadows of the past are gone With the advent of the Son,
Born to save us all, Born to save us all.**

Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

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.

Sermon

Please be seated for the sermon.

Creed

We stand to sing the Profession of Faith (Merbecke)

We believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We remain standing to prayer together. At the end of each petition this response is used

Holy God: hear our prayer.

After a pause for silent prayer, we conclude

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We are invited to give one another a sign of peace without touching—please use the Namaste or a bow of the head (a smile is really good too!). Our financial offering will be brought up by the Sidespeople from the Lower Landing table.

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary; And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.**

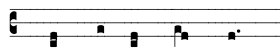
**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still The dear Christ enters in.**

**Where children pure and happy Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, And Christmas comes once more.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.**

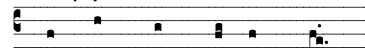
Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you



and also with you.

Lift up your hearts



We lift them to the Lord.