

You have heard his story, the story of God's own Son.
Amen, we thank you, Lord.

May he fill you with joy to bring this good news to others today.
Amen, we thank you, Lord.

And may the blessing... always. **Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



Notices :

Christmas at St George's 2023:

- 24 Dec **2200** **Midnight Mass of Christmas & Blessing of the Crib**
Followed by a champagne reception.
- 25 Dec 0830 Dawn Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
1030 Sung Eucharist of Christmas Day
1630 Messe Malgache

Christmas Communion: The clergy are very willing to bring Holy Communion to the housebound. Please encourage those who continue to shelter to contact Fr Mark to receive their Christmas Communion.

There are no public offices this week but the Eucharist will be celebrated daily.

Good news for tax payers! Did you know that as a taxpayer in France an identifiable donation gets 66% off your tax bill. This means the net cost to you of a €100 donation will be only €34. That means you can either go out for dinner OR consider donating the saving to church. **Please consider increasing your giving if you can to cover our increasing operating costs.**

In Your Prayers please remember those on our sick-list: Robin Baker, Beryl Bateman, Eric Benson, Issy Brett, Jean-Paul Buffet, Angela Casone, Rev'd Jonathan Clarke, Anne Cozic, Jeanine & Caroline Cullinan, Deidre Dalton, Gregor Dallas, Elizabeth Durand, Tina Fitzpatrick, Alan Fletcher, Francis Frois, Mimi de Bentzmann-Fouilland, Jeanette Georges, Anne Gould, Ophélie Gourbault, Rev'd Richard Hicks, Irene Hicks, Pam Ingram, John James, Ernest Jeyam, Karen, Prudence Kupka, Muriel Lamoureux, Stacey McAdams, Hans Mayer, Monique Moron, Kenneth Nyakana, Fr Alan Warren, Alan Watts, David Wetsel, Anitha Yannick, Lucas, Margo, Alex and Max, Sarah, Laurence, Marie-Thérèse, Susan, David, Paul, Saul, Val,

Those who have died: Betty Warrick, William Broad, priest, David Leys.

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

Family Eucharist for the Night before Christmas

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

Sunday 24th	0830 1030 1800 2200	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Communion (1662 BCP) Cel JJ Solemn Eucharist Cel MO Pr JJ Crib Eucharist for all the family Cel MO Pr MO Midnight Mass of Christmas Cel MO Pr JJ
Monday 25th	0830 1030 1630	The Nativity of the Lord Holy Communion (1662 BCP) Cel JJ Solemn Eucharist Cel MO Pr JJ Messe Malgache Cel NR Pr NR
Tuesday 26th	1830	Stephen, deacon, first martyr Eucharist
Wednesday 27th	1200	John, apostle and evangelist Eucharist
Thursday 28th	1830	The Holy Innocents Eucharist
Friday 29th	1830 E	Thomas à Becket, archbishop & martyr Eucharist
Saturday 30th	1200 1800	Fifth Day of Christmas Eucharist Eucharistie en français Cel NR Pr NR
Sunday 31st	0830 1030	1st Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion (1662 BCP) Cel MO Solemn Eucharist Cel JJ Pr MO

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The Gathering

As the bell rings, we stand to sing (NEH 34).

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around**

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.

Penitential Rite

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

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We sing the song of praise to this paraphrase of the French carol Les anges dans nos campagnes to the tune of Angels from the realms of glory.

**Angels, we have heard your voices,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains;
Mount, and crag and hill replying,
Echo still your joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*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. After Communion, we sing (NEH 32).

**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.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**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.**

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts; to him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand for the final hymn and blessing (NEH 29).

**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 blessèd 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. (NEH 29)**

Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth.
Amen, we thank you, Lord.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of Hosts, by heav'n adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh!
In the name of God the King
Alleluias glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to you!**

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 we sing the **Agnus Dei** to the tune Silent Night.*

**Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world.
Lamb of God, you take away
all the sins of the world you love.
Lamb of God, grant us your peace,
grant us all your peace.**

Invitation to Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
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 you may like to use the following prayer:

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

**Shepherds, why this jubilation?
Why this ecstasy of song?
Tell us what may be the tidings
That inspired the heavenly throng?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come and see in Bethl'em's city
Him whose birth the angels sing;
And, on bended knee, adore him,
Christ the Lord, the new-born King!
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**See, within a manger lying,
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth;
Aid us, Mary, aid us, Joseph,
To acclaim our Saviour's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night your almighty Word leapt down from heaven: pierce the worlds' darkness with the light of salvation and give to the earth the peace we long for through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Please stand for the hymn before the Gospel (NEH 10).

**Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new; Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes, Who will make him welcome?**

**God in time, God in man, This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man, Born himself of woman,
God divinely human. Refrain**

**Mary, hail! Though afraid; She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid; Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. Refrain**

**Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar. Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes! We will make him welcome!**

Holy Gospel: Luke 2: 8-20

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!'

Sermon

Please be seated for the short address.

Tonight Christ is born; **alleluia**
Tonight the Saviour will come; **alleluia**
Tonight the angels sing on the earth; **alleluia**

Blessing of the Crib

Affirmation of Faith

We stand to say together

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

Jesus, Saviour, **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.

Please stand for the hymn. During this hymn a collection will be taken—you may like to use your debit card and give electronically? The hymn at the Preparation of the Table (NEH 28) :

**In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay:
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air -
but only his mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

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 we sing the **Sanctus** to the tune of Hark, the herald angels sing.*