

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: (NEH 30)

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.



St George's, Paris

Midnight Mass of Christmas 2023

A warm welcome to St George's online worship this week. Everything you need for today's service you'll find in this pamphlet. The choir will sing **Messe fur die hl. Christmacht** by Robert Fuhrer (1807–1861) and the motet is **Stille Nacht** by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863).

Sunday 24th	0830	4th Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion (1662 BCP)	Cel JJ	
	1030		Solemn Eucharist	Cel MO	Pr JJ
	1800		Crib Eucharist for all the family	Cel MO	Pr MO
	2200		Midnight Mass of Christmas	Cel MO	Pr JJ
Monday 25th	0830	The Nativity of the Lord	Holy Communion (1662 BCP)	Cel JJ	
	1030		Solemn Eucharist	Cel MO	Pr JJ
	1630		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		Thomas à Becket, archbishop & martyr		
			Eucharist		
Saturday 30th	1200		Fifth Day of Christmas		
	1800		Eucharist		
			Eucharistie en français	Cel NR	Pr NR
Sunday 31st	0830	1st Sunday of Christmas	Holy Communion (1662 BCP)	Cel MO	
	1030		Solemn Eucharist	Cel JJ	Pr MO

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The Gathering

As the bell rings, we stand to sing (NEH 29)

**It came upon the 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 your 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.**

Gloria

Glory be to God on high and in earth peace, goodwill towards men. We praise thee we bless thee, we worship thee we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art the Most High in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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.**

Please be seated for the notices after which we sing the final hymn (NEH 26).

**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

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Thanks be to God.

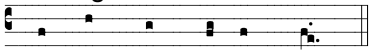
Procession to the Crib

After the Blessing and Dismissal the clergy and servers process with the figure of the Christ Child around the church. It is customary to honour the Christ Child by genuflecting or bowing as he passes.

**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;
Very God, Begotten, not created:**

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. **Please do not intinct—it is forbidden by our bishops and dangerous for coeliacs.** Please follow the directions of the Sides-people. If you are watching online or 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,

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.

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 62:6-end

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

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: Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Please stand for the gradual hymn (NEH 35):

**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.

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 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.**

**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.**

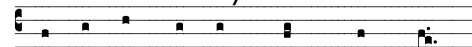
**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still The dear Christ enters in.**

**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.