

The United Benefice of  
Warton and Borwick with Yealand

# The Feast of Christmas



# Christmas Day Eucharist

(livestream Friday 25th December)

A very warm welcome to everyone who is joining us “virtually” online via our YouTube channel.

Presiding Minister: The Revd Robin Figg, Vicar

Lighting the Advent Ring: Paul Figg (*recorded at home*)

First reading: Pam Bentley (*recorded at home*)

Gospel reading: Joyce Tombs (*recorded at home*)

Intercessions: Angela Sewell (*recorded at home*)

This is a service of Holy Communion. The term ‘Spiritual Communion’ has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building, but by the Body of Christ to which we belong. In making our communion spiritually we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, ‘I am the bread of life’.

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### **Music before the service**

Once in Royal David’s City - *Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)*  
*Sung by St Oswald’s Junior Choir, with soloist Lauren Molteni*

**Believing** | **Living** | **Sharing**

# ***The Gathering***

*The people are welcomed.*

**We greet each other**

*The presiding minister says*

We meet in the name of the living God,  
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

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

**All and also with you.**

I bring you good news of great joy:

**All A Saviour has been born today.**

**Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born:

**All unto us a Son is given.**

**Alleluia.**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

**All We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

**We light our Advent Ring candles**

*The central candle on the Advent Ring is lit.*

**We bless the Crib**

*The presiding minister says*

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib and our own cribs at home, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,  
on this 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.**

## **We say sorry to God**

*A minister introduces the confession with these words*

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 sin.

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.**

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.**

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

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The presiding minister pronounces the absolution*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to God's self,  
that we may behold the glory of God's Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed of all our sin,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:

*All* **and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!**

*The following is said*

**All** **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 presiding minister 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.

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.

**All** **Amen.**

# ***The Liturgy of the Word***

## **Reading**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

*An acclamation heralds the Gospel reading using the following words*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**All Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon**

*After the sermon we keep a short time of quiet.*

## **We affirm our faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and 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.**

**We pray to God**

*The presiding minister introduces the prayers with these words*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*The prayers include the response*

Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*and end with*

...through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

**We share God's Peace**

*The presiding minister introduces the Peace with these or other suitable words*

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.**

## Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*Music during the preparation: Like a candle flame - Graham Kendrick (b1950).  
Sung by Hannah Lawrence, Martha Lawrence, Madeleine Freeman and Rhian*

### Prayer over the bread and wine

*The presiding minister takes the bread and wine.*

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

*The presiding minister says*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister praises God for God's mighty acts and all respond*

**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.**

*The presiding minister recalls the Last Supper and this acclamation is used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly*

*...for ever and ever.*

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The presiding minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

As Christ breaks bread with us.

*All* **he enfolds our story in his story.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*The Agnus Dei is said*

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sin,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The presiding minister says the following invitation to communion*

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all who are weary and whose load is heavy; I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble-hearted; and you will find rest for your souls'. *Matthew 11.28-29*

*The presiding minister receives communion.*

*Those sharing the service from their homes are invited to give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with them now.*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.**

**O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day. Amen.**

*After the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The presiding minister says the 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.

**All Amen.**

*The following prayer is said*

**All 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 Dismissal***

*Notices*

**Hymn** O come, all ye faithful

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;  
*Refrain*

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;  
*Refrain*

*Translated from the Latin (18th century) by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)*  
*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

*The presiding minister pronounces the blessing using the following words*

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

### **Music after the service**

Joy to the world - Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Sung by St Martin's Voices

**A very happy and peaceful  
Christmas to you all**

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