

WORTHING CHRIST CHURCH

Grafton Road
BN11 1QY



ORDER OF SERVICE

24th December 2021

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
with The Revd Roger Walker

TONIGHT:

1st Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

read by Janine H

2nd Reading: Luke 2: 1 – 14

read by Dorothy F

Intercessions led by Ken H

*The Organ Voluntary following our service today is:
Ricerca sopra Gsolreut, anonymous in the
manuscript compiled by Donato Cimino, 1675, Naples*

A Service of Holy Communion

The Greeting *[Stand]*

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Opening Carol

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 all the 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 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 on 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.

Public Domain

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence *[Sit or kneel]*

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

The second is this:

‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment

greater than these.

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets.

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

Invitation to confession

God so loved the world

that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ

to save us from our sins,

to be our advocate in heaven,

and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,

firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments

and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our
neighbour in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of
life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you
from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis [Stand]

All sing 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

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle *[Sit]*

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol

Silent night

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin mother and Child;
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, Love's pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Public Domain



Gospel Reading *[Please stand]*

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [Luke 2: 1 – 14]

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All say Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *[Sit]*

After which a short period of silence is kept.

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed *[Stand]*

All 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 *[Sit]*

And at the end after a short period of silence

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



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The Peace - using suitable seasonal words.

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

Carol

Ding dong merrily on high

Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chimes, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Public Domain

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

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.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying

***All say* 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: *[Spoken]*

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

[Spoken] All:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

***All* 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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The words of invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

*Music will be played throughout
the distribution of Holy Communion*

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread at the Communion rail.

If you would just like to receive a blessing, please carry your order of service with you to help the priest know your intention.

If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, the priest will come to you, please let the churchwarden know you wish to receive communion as he approaches down the aisle.

Prayers after Communion *[Sit or Kneel]*

Eternal God, for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:
keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of
man,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept.

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Carol

O come all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
Oh 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 not the virgin's womb;

Very God, begotten not created:

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest:

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Minister says

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

*Our thanks to The Revd Roger Walker for leading our
service of Holy Communion tonight*

***Thank you for joining with us today.
Stay well, stay safe.***

Please be aware of social distancing

Services in December

25th 10.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day
with The Revd Maurice Slattery

26th 10.30am Morning Prayer with Derek Hansen

Please remember in prayer:

All the doctors, nurses and all other workers in the NHS who are working to save lives at this time. We remember the sick and the lonely, those who are troubled in mind or spirit, those recently bereaved and church family members and residents in local nursing & care homes.

Registered Charity No. 1152846
Parochial Church Council of
Worthing Christ Church
Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk

Contact us:

Church Wardens:
Kenneth Hobbs

email: christchurchfinance@btinternet.com

Steve Davis

Email: christchurchvolunteers@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator: ***Janine Hobbs***

email: christchurchadmin@btinternet.com

The whole family of Christ Church wish you, and all those you love a very Happy Christmas, and a peaceful, healthy New Year!

Thank you for joining us! We look forward to seeing you again soon.

How about joining us for coffee and a chat in the New Year?

We are normally open Tuesday and
Wednesday mornings from 10.30am till noon
and Thursday afternoons
from 2.30pm till 4pm

On Thursdays, we also have a crafty table,
for anyone to bring along their knitting,
crocheting, colouring, in fact any crafts, or
just stop by to have a natter!

Even though our reordering has started, we
are still serving coffee and tea in the café
area at the front of the church near the
kitchen hatch
and in the organ vestry.

We look forward to seeing you in the New
Year!

Open Church: The volunteers are having a
rest, so we will not be open for coffee from
after Thursday 23rd December until
we re-open on Tuesday,
4th January at 10.30am,
we look forward to seeing you then!
[Covid restrictions permitting!]



**A Very Happy and Holy
Christmas 2021
to you all from the
Christ Church Family**

