

# Communion Service

**Sunday 6th January 2019**

*The Epiphany*

## **A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!**

Our service today is led by the Revd Mark Wallace, and our preacher is Mr Duncan Breckels. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Welcoming Team or contact any of the people in the "Contact Details" section in the green "Church Diary, Notices & Prayer Calendar" leaflet. Please note that we do not take a collection during the service: if you would like to give, please use the box towards the back of church.

**Thank you for joining us this morning.**

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

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### “THE FIRST NOWELL”

The first nowell the angel did say  
was to Bethlehem’s shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the king of Israel!*

Then wise men from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star;  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:

*Nowell, nowell...*

At Bethlehem they entered in,  
on bended knee they worshipped him;  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

*Nowell, nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
for Christ has our salvation wrought  
and with his blood mankind has bought:

*Nowell, nowell...*

*Traditional*

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## PRAYERS OF PREPARATION & PENITENCE

**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.**

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.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**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 us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## THE COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son  
to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

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**FIRST BIBLE READING: Ephesians 3.1-12**

*page 977; read by Sheila Lloyd*

*At the end of the reading...*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**SECOND BIBLE READING: Matthew 2.1-12**

*page 807-808; read by Peter Sawyer*

*At the end of the reading...*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**"UNTO US A BOY IS BORN"**

Unto us a boy is born,  
king of all creation:  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation,  
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he  
amidst the cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses,  
that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he cried, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
at Beth'lem in his fury,  
at Beth'lem in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.

Alpha and Omega he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
shall rend the air asunder,  
shall rend the air asunder.

*translated from the medieval German by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

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**SERMON**

*preacher: Duncan Breckels*

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**THE NICENE CREED**

**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.**

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*led by Richard Lawn*

*These responses may be used during the prayers:*  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

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

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## THE NOTICES

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### THE PEACE

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

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### “WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring Him praise,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spears shall pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
all tongues and people own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high,  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the Son of Mary.

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

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### THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.**

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 our Lord.

For he is our great high priest,  
who has loosed us from our sins  
and has made us to be a royal priesthood to you,  
our God and Father.

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:

**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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there by his one oblation of himself  
once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation  
and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted,  
and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death  
until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's  
holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body  
and blood;

who, on 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.

Christ is the bread of life:  
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,  
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,  
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
we offer you through him this sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of  
our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy,  
through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice,  
yet we pray that you will accept this the duty  
and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,  
and fill us all who share in this holy communion  
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

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

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

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.

**We do not presume to come to this your table,  
O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up  
the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean  
by his body  
and our souls washed  
through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

*When ushered,  
please come forwards to receive bread and wine  
(or for a prayer of blessing, if preferred),  
returning to your pew via the side-aisles.*

*While you are waiting,  
and once you have returned to your pew,  
please either join in with the singing  
(the words are on the final page of this service-sheet)  
or spend the time in prayer.*

**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.**

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#### **"AS WITH GLADNESS"**

As with gladness men of old  
did the shining star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
so may we, with willing feet,  
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at Thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our Heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun, which goes not down.  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

*William C. Dix (1837-1898)*

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## THE CONCLUSION

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. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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*Please be seated.*

*Refreshments will be brought to you in the pews.  
Do please stay for a while.*

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## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God:  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body on the tree;  
then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,**  
slain for us - and we remember  
the promise made that all who come in faith  
find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
and we drink of His sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of peace -  
around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
torn for you - eat and remember  
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life  
paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
and we drink of His sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of love -  
around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
shed for you - drink and remember  
he drained death's cup that all may enter in  
to receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
and we drink of His sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of grace -  
around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
to respond - and to remember  
our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
as His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering  
we proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven -  
around the table of the King.

