

Christmas Eve – Solemn Midnight Eucharist The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord 24 December 2025 | 11pm

WELCOME to St Peter's Church.

I am delighted that you can join us for our Christmas Eve service tonight.

This is a joyous time of year when we, as a church, enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ with our wider community. If you are a newcomer or visiting, I especially look forward to meeting you and hope that you feel welcome. May I invite you to join us at one of our regular Sunday services in the coming year.

I wish you a merry and meaningful Christmas, Mark Wormell, Acting Rector.

TONIGHT'S SERVICE

SUNG EUCHARIST

CELEBRANT & PREACHER REV MARK WORMELL

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC GLENN AMER

ST PETER'S SINGERS: KAREN BRUCE - SOPRANO

MIKYOUNG CHUNG - ALTO

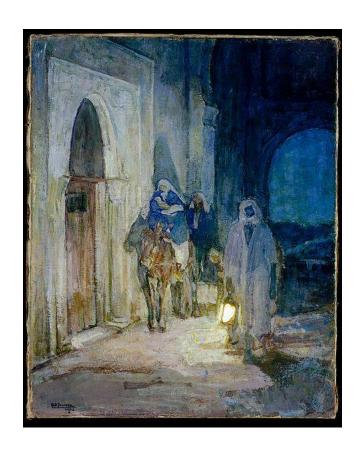
MICHAELA HODGSON - MEZZO-SOPRANO

WARREN FISHER - TENOR DANIEL MACEY - BASS

SETTING MISSA BREVIS IN D (KV194 – 1774)

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756 –1791)

A Hearing Loop is available in the pews on the left-hand side of the church. Toilets are available in the Lower Hall and a mobility access toilet in the David Armstrong Room.



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please stand for the entry procession

Introit: Long ago, Prophets knew. Words by F.P. Green. Melody from 1582.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Tune: Irby

- 1 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.
- 2 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, despised 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 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all 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, when his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95

The Lord's Table is censed with the prayer that God will spiritually 'feed' us through our service today, that we may be equipped to follow Christ in obedience and faith. The incense symbolizes the prayers of God's people rising to God.

The Celebrant greets the people with a welcome.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SENTENCE

Celebrant

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9.2, 6

The Celebrant, facing the people, says
Tonight, you will know that the Lord is coming to save us:

And in the morning, you will see his glory.

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, a virgin is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel, that is, "God is with us."

Thanks be to God.

Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.

He will dwell with us and we shall be his people.

God himself is with us. Alleluia.

Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

The Christmas Crib is censed with the following prayer:

Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Bless, we pray, this crib and all who look upon it that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ Our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Please sit

St Peter's Singers

Kyrie eleison; Lord have mercy
Christe eleison; Christ have mercy
Kyrie eleison Lord have mercy

THE CONFESSION

Please stand

Senior Server

Dear brothers and sisters, hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Silence

Merciful God,

our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Please sit

St Peter's Singers

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; Qui tollis peccata mundi,

suscipe deprecationem nostrum.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris.

miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu
Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu,

★ in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

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, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takes 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 Spirit, art the Most High ★ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Please stand

Celebrant

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Please sit

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 33:17 – 22

Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar. In your thoughts you will ponder the former terror: "Where is that chief officer? Where is the one who took the revenue? Where is the officer in charge of the towers?" You will see those arrogant people no more, people whose speech is obscure, whose language is strange and incomprehensible. Look on Zion, the city of our festivals; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken. There the Lord will be our Mighty One. It will be like a place of broad rivers and streams. No galley with oars will ride them, no mighty ship will sail them. Provided the cord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



- 19 You spoke | once in a | vision: and | said | to your | faithful one,
- 20 'I have set a youth a|bove a | warrior: I have exalted a | young man | out of the | people.
- 21 'I have found my | servant | David: and anointed him | with my | holy|oil.
- 22 'My hand | shall up | hold him: and my | arm | shall | strengthen him.
- 23 'No enemy | shall de|ceive him: no | evil | man shall | hurt him.
- 24 'I will crush his | adversaries be|fore him: and | strike down | those that | hate him.
- 25 'My faithfulness and loving-kindness | shall be | with him: and through my name his | head shall be | lifted | high.
- 'I will set the hand of his dominion_ upon the | Western | Sea: and his right hand shall stretch_ to the | streams of | Meso po|tamia.
- 27 'He will call to me | "You are my | Father: my God and the | Rock of | my sal|vation."
- 28 'I will make him my | first-born | son: and highest a|mong the | kings of the | earth.
- 'I will ever maintain my loving | kindness to|ward him: and my covenant | with him shall | stand | firm.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7.1-5, 7.8-11, 7.16

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.' 3 Nathan replied to the king, 'Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.' 4 But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: 5 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord says; are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? 8 'Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone. and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. 10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them any more, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; vour throne shall be established for ever."

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel procession moves to the nave where the Gospel is being proclaimed, all people face that place.

The gospel is censed with the prayer that God will place his word in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Cantor

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Good news and great joy to all the world; today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1.67-69



His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: ⁶⁸ 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Please sit

HYMN

Please stand Tune: The First Noel

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as 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.

- They lookèd up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.
- 3 And by the light of that same star
 Three wise men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay.

 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three Full reverently upon their knee, And offered there in his presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 And with his blood mankind hath bought.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

Anon 17th Century

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please remain standing

Senior Server Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All sit or kneel

Senior Server

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Periods of silence may be briefly kept for personal prayer.

Heavenly Father, the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ showed us that Jesus was fully God and fully human. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

As Joseph and Mary were bound to each other in love for you, draw each of us to those whom you have purposed us to love, that we might do so with insight, inspiration, patience and perseverance. Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

As we think about Jesus cradled in a manger, we give thanks for those places we regard as safe, warm and welcoming, acknowledging the blessing of the security we experience.

We pray for those who are homeless, and for refugees trying to find a measure of safety, food and shelter for their families. Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer**. As we think about Jesus worshipped by shepherds and kings, we give thanks for the diversity of cultures, nations and races which are together what makes us in the likeness of God.

We pray for those disputed regions of the world, where diversity of opinion or politics forms a barrier to peaceful co-existence,

Jesus, as you were brought gifts help us to use wisely those gifts of forgiveness and reconciliation which you have given us for the good of all nations.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Jesus, our Emmanuel we pray for the sick, suffering and dying among us, in their homes, in hospital and in residential care - for those who care for them, that each might behold the salvation of our God and be blessed by the Prince of Peace.

Jesus, just as you come to us daily may we consciously make time to come to you, at Christmas and every day.

Father accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

All stand

Celebrant

We praise you, Merciful Father, because you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be born for us. By the power of the Holy Spirit he was conceived of the virgin Mary his mother, being himself without sin, to make us clean from all sin.

We do not presume to come to your table, 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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Celebrant

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And his name is called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet those immediately around them with the words, "Peace be with you" "And also with you".

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

OFFERTORY HYMN

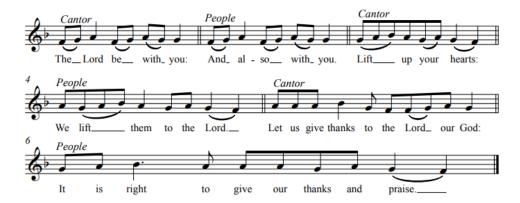
Tune: There's a light upon the mountains

Please stand

- There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring, When our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King; Weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long, But His triumph-day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.
- 2 There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air; And the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer; For the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne, And the travail of our spirit is the travail of His own.
- 3 He is breaking down the barriers, He is casting up the way; He is calling for His angels to build up the gates of day; But His angels here are human, not the shining hosts above, For the drum-beats of His army are the heart-beats of our love.
- Hark! we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell;
 Tis the triumph song of Jesus, of our King Immanuel;
 Zion, go you forth to meet Him, and my soul, be swift to bring All thy sweetest and your dearest for the triumph of our King.

Henry Burton, 1840 - 1930

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Celebrant

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

THE SANCTUS / BENEDICTUS

Please sit

St Peter's Singers

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria tua.	Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Hosanna in excelsis. ★ Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	Hosanna in the highest ★ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All stand

Celebrant

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,

"Take eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

"Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

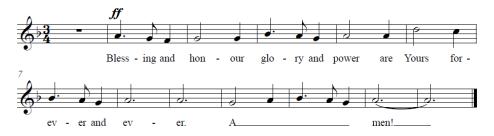
Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Cantor

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

Celebrant

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Please sit

St Peter's Singers.

Aanus Dei

qui tollis peccata mundi,

miserere nobis. Agnus Dei

qui tollis peccata mundi,

miserere nobis. Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,

Dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God,

that takes away the sins

of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins

of the world.

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins

of the world.

grant us your peace

INVITATION

Please stand

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him **in** our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

As the sacrament is received the communicant responds. **Amen**.

All baptised Christians who love and serve the Lord Jesus are welcome to join in the sharing of Holy Communion. If you are not yet ready to receive Communion, we encourage you to come forward for a prayer of blessing. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by holding your hands behind your back.

Alcoholic wine is available in the Common Cup, and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic wine is available in individual cups. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one on your way to the Communion Rail and wait until chalice bearer says the Words for the Giving of Communion before drinking.

As the sacrament is received the communicant responds. Amen.

After receiving communion, the congregation sits or kneels. Silence for prayerful reflection may be kept.

COMMUNION

Communion Motet: Silent Night, Holy Night (Gruber and improvisations by D.o.M)

Today Christ is born:
Today the Saviour appeared:
Today on earth the Angels sing,
Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Noël, noël, noël, Alleluia!

SENTENCE

Celebrant

"'The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:11b - 12

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

Celebrant

Let us pray,

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.

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OFFERTORY

Remain standing

We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, for your generosity: you were rich yet for our sake became poor, so that through your poverty we might become rich. With our praise, accept our gifts, and use them for the enrichment of others and the glory of your name. **Amen.**

GOD'S BLESSING

Celebrant

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 among you and remain with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Senior Server

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

All stand

Tune: Battle Hymn

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored:

he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: his truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah, his truth is marching on.

- He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
 he is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat:
 O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
 Our God is marching on. [Refrain]
- In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me; as he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on. [Refrain]
- He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave; he is wisdom to the mighty; he is succour to the brave: so the world shall be his foot-stool, and the soul of time his slave: our God is marching on. [Refrain]

Julia Ward Howe, 1819 - 1910

POSTLUDE

The Hallelujah Chorus (The Messiah – George Frederick Handel 1685-1759)

CHRISTMAS GREETING:

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with joy and peace today and throughout the coming year.



Regular services

Sunday
9am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School & morning tea

Tuesday
10am Eucharist & morning tea

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Rev Mark Wormell, Acting Rector