

Midnight Communion



PARISH OF CUMNOR

St Michael's, Cumnor

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Gathering

The Minister welcomes the congregation.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God on earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high.

Liturgy of St. James trans. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)



HOPE | EXPLORED
WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE YOU
COULD EVER IMAGINE?

WHEN Monday evenings, 7PM from January 8th
WHERE St Michael's Parish Centre, Abingdon Road
WHAT A 3-session series looking at the life, death
and resurrection of Jesus

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O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL,
joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels:
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:
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, 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, Christ the Lord!

*Possibly by John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Lighting the Advent Candles

The red candles are all relit.

On this night of nights we remember,
Jesus, the light of the world,
the lamb of God who is come into the world!

The central candle is lit and then we pray:

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

Angels dance and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

One with us, yet born to save,
He will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.



Prayer of Preparation

**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**

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.
**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.**

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.
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.
**To Him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen**

**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.**

Blessing

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.

Breaking of the Bread

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, 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.**

*The minister and people receive communion by intinction, the minister
will dip the wafer into wine before giving it to you. Christians of all
denominations are welcome to receive communion in this church. If
you would prefer to receive a blessing please keep your hands below
the rail. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

The minister declares God's forgiveness.

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.

Amen

**SILENT NIGHT, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
Round the virgin mother and Child:
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quail 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.

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10

At the end of the reading:
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:1-20
Please Stand

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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**

And now we give you thanks because for love of our fallen race he most wonderfully and humbly chose to be made man, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by, so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in your image. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each section

Lord, in your mercy.

hear our prayer

Ending with:

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace, using the words
“Peace be with you” or similar.*

*During this next carol, the offering is taken, the Table is
prepared, and the bread and wine are placed upon it.*

**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, goodwill 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 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 all the world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) alt.

The Communion Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.