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Diocese of  
**Guildford**   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

**St Mary's Church  
Thorpe**



**CHRISTMAS  
DAY**

**10am  
SUNG  
FESTIVAL  
EUCHARIST**



Diocese of  
**Guildford**   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

  
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# CHRISTMAS DAY

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Thorpe for this Eucharist with Carols. Today we celebrate together with Christians around the world the birth of a child, Jesus our Lord, who brings the joy of God's saving love to all people. We recall how Jesus is the light of the World and God's Word to us.

## **Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year!**

*Please set hearing aids to T  
for use of our hearing loop.*

*You will find a yellow gift-aid envelope with this service sheet. This is for your Christmas gift to St Mary's. If you pay UK income tax, please gift-aid your donation by completing the front with your details and placing your donation inside. Your gift will be collected half-way through the service at the Offertory. Thank You.*

## **Order for the Holy Eucharist of Christmas**

### **Welcome & Notices**

#### **Opening Carol**

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save.  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

#### **Introduction**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The priest greets the people:*

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

**All and also with you.**

#### **Lighting the Christmas Candle**

*The priest introduces the service and we light the  
Christmas Day candle on the Advent Ring.*



God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: **R**

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: **R**

Lo, star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts' oblations: **R**

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? **R**

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing. **R**

*The clergy & servers depart.*

***We wish you and your family a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

*We hope you will join us again soon for*  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST MARY'S CHURCH**

8am Said Holy Communion

**10am Sung Parish Eucharist**

*(11am Café Church is open in the Rutherwyke  
Room where refreshments are served.)*

*1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays monthly:*

**11:30am Family Service**

**Visit our Church website for more information:**  
**[www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk)**



*Archbishop's Council ©  
Common Worship 2000  
Times & Seasons 2006  
Festivals 2006*

**CCLI: 1427605, MRL: 1427612**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*We face the Nativity Scene at the High Altar to pray:*  
**The Angelus**

**All The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary  
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee;  
blessed art Thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

**All Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**All Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee;  
blessed art Thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

**All Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

And the Word was made Flesh  
**All and dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee;  
blessed art Thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

**All Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**All That we may be made worthy  
of the promises of Christ.**

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,  
Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom  
the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made  
known by the message of an angel,  
may by His Passion and Cross be brought  
to the glory of His Resurrection,  
Through the same Christ Our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**The Dismissal** *The Deacon says:*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

**Carol: 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;

**R:** O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**All The holly and the ivy, are dancing in a ring  
round the purple and pink candles,  
and the white and shining King.  
And Christ is in the centre,  
for this is his birthday,  
with the shining lights of Christmas  
singing, 'He has come today!'**



Let us pray:

God our Father, today the Saviour  
is born and those who live in darkness  
are seeing a great light. Help us,  
who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son and  
to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world.

**All Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

*Deacon:*

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 sins.

**All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed  
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 lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins and make us holy  
to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

Glory be to God in heaven,  
songs of joy and peace we bring,  
thankful hearts and voices raising,  
to creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,  
glory be to God our King,  
glory be to God our King!

Lamb of God, who on your shoulders  
bore the load of this world's sin,  
only Son of God the Father,  
you have brought us peace within.

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
now your glorious reign begin,  
now your glorious reign begin. © Kevin Mayhew



## The Collect

*Let us pray:*

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children  
by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

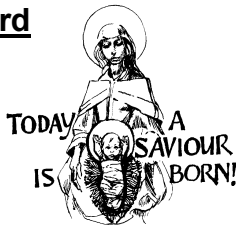
## The Liturgy of the Word

### The First Reading

*Please see readings sheet.*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**



### 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 on 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 to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

### The Second Reading *Please see readings sheet.*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with man to dwell:  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that man no more may die;  
born to raise the sons of earth;  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

### 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.**

*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 Solemn Blessing

*Please stand.*

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

*All* **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered  
into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing  
Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace  
to carry the good news of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

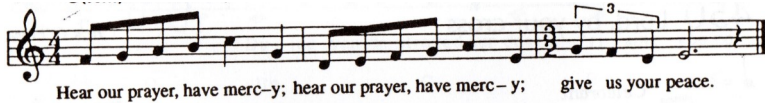
We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

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



## The Agnus Dei

*The cantor sings the verse and then everyone sings the refrain:*



## Giving of Communion

This 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.**

*All are invited to come to the front of the church. If it is not  
your custom to receive Holy Communion, please bring  
this service sheet with you to receive a blessing.*

## Cantor Anthem

### Carols

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Hark the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies.  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

*An Alleluia heralds the Gospel Reading. Please stand.*



## Gospel Reading

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.**

*Please see readings sheet.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## Christmas Day Sermon

*Please sit.*

## The Creed

*Please 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** Please sit or kneel.

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

The prayers may conclude with:

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



### The Liturgy of the Sacrament

**The Peace** Please stand.

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.

Deacon:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We greet one another with the words  
'Peace and Happy Christmas'.



### **Offertory**

*During the carol your Christmas financial gift to St Mary's Church is collected. The altar is prepared with the bread and wine, which the priest offers to God in thanksgiving.*

### **Carol**

See, amid the winter's snow  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;  
hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies,  
he who built the starry skies:  
He who, throned in heights sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say:  
What your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

As we watched at dead of night,  
there appeared a wondrous light;  
angels, singing peace on earth,  
told us of a Saviour's birth.

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss,  
down to such a world as this!



Virgin mother, Mary, blest,  
by the joys that fill thy breast,  
pray for us, that we may prove  
worthy of the Saviour's love.

*Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

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**

Please kneel or sit.

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.

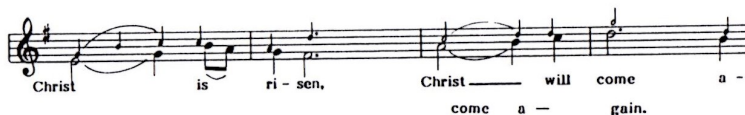
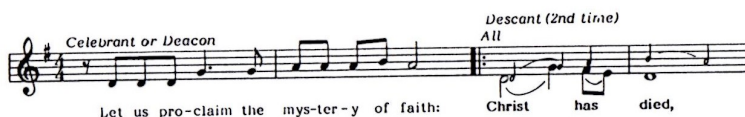
**All** It is right to give thanks and praise.

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts in a Christmas prayer of thanksgiving and we all respond singing:*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*The priest continues the prayer as we recall the Last Supper, then we are invited to profess our faith:*



*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology and we respond:*

