

# Christmas Day : Home Worship

## 25 December 2021

*For hymns, see the YouTube recording of the service which is published shortly after the 10am Eucharist at:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8PZ-OGaWI9XvZLXd1Y1LyA>

### ***The Gathering***

*Take a few moments in silence to collect your thoughts and to acknowledge God's presence with you.*

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

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

## ***The Confession***

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.

## ***The Absolution***

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.

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.  
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

## ***The Lighting of an Advent Candle***

Blessed are you Sovereign Lord, King of Peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
The new light of your incarnate word,  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.  
Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Lord Jesus, Light of Light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light,  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest!

## ***The Collect***

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. Amen.

## ***Readings***

### **Isaiah 52.7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the  
nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

## Hebrews 1.1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## Gospel Reading John 1.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### ***Sermon by Fr Simon***

### ***Prayers of Intercession***

*The following or another response may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

### ***The Peace***

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

### ***Eucharistic Prayer***

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 for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of

Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. 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.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those at Home**

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour has 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.

### ***Post-Communion***

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

### ***The Blessing***

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon us, scatter the darkness from before our path, and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always.  
Amen.

### ***Dismissal***

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.