



Worship at Home: Midnight Mass with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Dover

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

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

The Archbishop briefly introduces the service

Introducing the blessing of the crib the Archbishop says

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this night
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.
All Amen.

Introducing the Prayers of Penitence, he says:

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.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of the Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

CHRISTMAS GLORIA

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Gloria in Excelsis.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Gloria in Excelsis.

Amen.

Music by Philip Ledger

The Archbishop says

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

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 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.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Titus 3: 4-7

Read by the Archbishop of Canterbury

A reading from the Epistle to Titus.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

The gospeller says

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2: 8-20

Read by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you Good News of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rt Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

CAROL

Away in a manger

Sung by Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church Choir

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 for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Sometimes attributed to John Thomas Macfarland (1851-1913),
Gabriel's Vineyard Songs (1892 Louisville),
Little Children's Book: For Schools and Families (1885 Philadelphia)*

Silence is kept.

Let us proclaim our faith in God.

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.

The president says

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Youth President

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God
All hear our prayer.

Father,
in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints

through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

This holy night the angels sang,
'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
All and also with you.

As the table is prepared

CAROL

O come, all ye faithful

Sung by St Martin's Voices

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.

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
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;
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
Refrain

*Words: Translated from the Latin (18th century)
by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)
Tune: Adeste fideles*

The president says

All The Lord be with you
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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us, that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

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:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Sanctus

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

Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one cup and one bread, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, 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.

All Amen.

The president says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

ANTHEM

Shepherds are kneeling
Sung by St Martin's Voices

*Shepherds are kneeling in worship mild,
Mary the mother of infant child,
gives her heart to the new-born King,
that and a humble stall.*

*There is no room, the manger awaits him,
give to the infant a bed of hay.
here with the cattle and nursed by his mother,
Jesus the child is a King for today.*

*Angel voices sing the message,
Glory to God, goodwill and peace,
stars on that Holy night, lighten the stable bright,
shepherds are kneeling in worship mild.*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

*Said whilst communion is received
Led by Anna Drew, Diocese of Canterbury*

All **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.**

ANTHEM (Cont...)

Shepherds are kneeling
Sung by St Martin's Voices

Shepherds are kneeling in worship mild,
what is the life for this little child?
Will he have peace and sweetness of dreams?
What does the future hold?
Journey of pain, and friends who betray him,
crucifix, nails, and a crown of thorns,
but with the tender caresses of Mary,
Jesus, Redeemer and Saviour is born.

*Angel voices sing the message,
Glory to God, goodwill and peace,
stars on that Holy night, lighten the stable bright,
shepherds are kneeling in worship mild.*

Words and Music Peter Nardone (born 1965)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. 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 BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Archbishop of Canterbury

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.

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

All Amen.

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

CAROL

Joy to the world

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: Antioch

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