

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, 2024

Saint Peter's Brighton Beach



Detail from window at Saint Peter's

Priest:
Revd Jonathan Chamberlain

Organist:
Andrew Kerr

Sunday 7th January 2024
10AM
SUNG HOLY EUCHARIST

Christmas

Introduction to the Season

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies. (*Thomas Pestel*)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

It is, of course, Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February. The days around 25 December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar, and commercial pressures have led to much of Christmas celebration being displaced into Advent. It has become a still greater challenge to celebrate as they deserve the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, who first paid with his life for following the incarnate Lord; John, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest. Resources for these days may be found in *Common Worship: Festivals*. New Year's Day is an important moment in the civil rather than the Christian calendar, but it provides the original occasion for the searching Covenant Renewal service of the Methodist tradition. From *A Common Worship*, Church of England

Please switch off all mobile phones

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN

please stand

As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,

Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

The priest greets all in the name of the Incarnate Lord

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

The priest says

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Let us pray:
**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.**

THE GLORIA

The Gloria is sung:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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. Amen

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The priest introduces the Collect

Let us pray that we may be faithful to our baptism

Silence is kept

Let us pray together the prayer of the day:
Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:
may the brightness of your incarnate Word
pierce the night that covers the earth,

signal the dawn of justice and peace,
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

please sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods:

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name:

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice:
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees:
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf:
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire,
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness:
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe:
and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord:
all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people:
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of Acts.

19.1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

please stand

1 Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

2 Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all folk surpasses.

3 Herod then with fear was filled;
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury.

4 Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

5 Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
now rends the air asunder.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

1.4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

[kneel or sit]

The priest introduces the prayers of the faithful

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Prayers and thanksgivings are offered

After each prayer

...in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

THE RE-AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The priest leads the congregation in the re-affirmation of baptismal promises

As we remember the baptism of our Lord, we remember that through the paschal mystery we



have died and been buried with him in our own baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Today we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Will you, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will with God's help.

And now I ask you to reaffirm the Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, the one in whom we live and move and have our being?

I believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the light of life, who died to set us free?

I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, through whom God's love has been poured into our hearts and who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The priest says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised in your name.

**Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

please stand

The priest says

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

cf 2 Corinthians 1.22

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.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

During the hymn the bread and wine are brought to the altar and

a collection is taken up.

1 A new heart, Lord, create in me,
a heart from sin and guilt set free;

O close the gate and guard the door,
that sin may enter in no more.

2 To you my soul I open wide;
come, Jesus, and in me abide,
and from the temple of my heart
make all unrighteousness depart.

3 O let your Holy Spirit's light,
with all your heavenly radiance bright,
flow through my spirit like a flood,
eternal source of every good.

4 Thus to my cleansed and contrite heart
your heavenly riches, Lord, impart,
so that your wisdom, truth, and grace
may make my heart a fruitful place.

5 Then I will tell in grateful song
the praises that to you belong;
my joy will be, my whole life through,
to consecrate myself to you.

Open the heavens, Lord our God,
and send your transforming Spirit
on us and on these gifts.

May we who are baptized into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering
and strengthened to serve him for ever.

All Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.

Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

**Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest says

Believing the promises of God,
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.
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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

The priest breaks the 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.**

The Agnus Dei is sung:

**All Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The priest says

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

All who are baptised, of all Christian denominations, are welcome to receive Holy Communion here at Saint Peter's. This includes children from the age of 6 at the discretion of their parents. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this to the priest, by the crossing of the arms on the chest. Please feel free to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The priest says

please stand

Let us pray.

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN

Christ, when for us you were baptized
God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove, and yet
As urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son,
Called you his Servant too;
His kingdom you were called to preach,
His holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death
You then obeyed his call,
Freely as Son of Man to serve,
And give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God's service we
May perfect freedom find.

The priest pronounces the Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All **Amen.**

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

The priest says

We have come to Christ, by the Holy Spirit, the living water.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.