



Happy Christmas
2024

Please stand for the processional hymn, *O come, all ye faithful*, New English Hymnal (NEH) 30, verses 1-2, 5-7

The Gathering

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

All **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Blessing of Crib & Candle

The Crib and Christmas candle are blessed with holy water and censed

In the faith of Christ,
and in your name,
O God most holy,
we present this crib of Christmas,
to set before the eyes of your children
the great love and humility
of Jesus Christ your only Son;
who for us, and for our salvation,
came down as at this time from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary his mother,
and was made man;
to whom with you and the same Spirit
be all honour, majesty, glory and worship,
now and to the ages of ages.

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.

Deacon 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.

Deacon 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.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

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

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

(tune: Angels from the realms of glory)

All **Glory be to God in Heaven**
Songs of joy and peace we bring;
Thankful hearts and voices raising
To creation's Lord we sing.
Gloria! Lord we bless and thank you.
Gloria! 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! Jesus Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy! Now your glorious reign begin.

You, O Son of God are holy,
You we praise with one accord:
None in heaven or earth is like you
Only you are Christ the Lord:
Gloria! Father, Son and Spirit.
Gloria! Ever worshipped and adored.

The Collect

Priest 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

Hebrews 1:1–12

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.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,
“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”

¶ **STAND** for the Gradual Hymn, *Unto us a boy is born*, NEH 39, omit v. 3

Gospeller Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospeller Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:1-14

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.

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

¶ **Please SIT**

The Homily

¶ **Please STAND**

The Nicene Creed

**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

Reader In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on this holy day, your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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.**

Reader On this holy day 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 **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Priest Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Preparation of the Altar

¶ **The Offertory Hymn**, *O little town of Bethlehem*, NEH 32, omit v. 4

¶ **Please remain STANDING**

Priest Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest 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 on this day 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:

Sanctus

**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.**

¶ Please **SIT** or **KNEEL**

Priest 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.

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

Priest

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 bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Our Lady, Nicolas, Catherine, George,
Benedict and 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,

**Blessing and honour, glory and power
Be yours, O Lord, for evermore.
Amen.**

¶ Please **STAND**

Priest Our Lady is Mother of the Church and shows her care for us all by her prayers. We join our prayers with hers as we say,

All **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the time of our death. Amen.**

Priest And so aided by the prayers of Our Lady, on whose constant intercession we rely, we commend the world for which Christ gave His life saying,

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

The Lord's Prayer

Priest 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;
in 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 Fracture

Priest 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.**

Communion

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

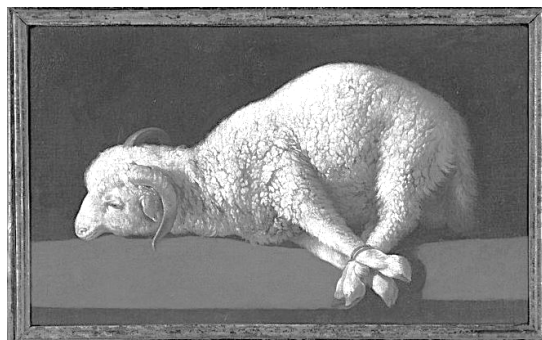
All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

Agnus Dei (*tune: Quem Pastores*)

**Jesus, good above all other
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
we believe that you are here.**

**Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
make we thee our king most dear.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy.
Bearer of our sins, have mercy.
Saviour of the world, have mercy.
Grant us peace, O grant us peace.**



Prayer after Communion

Priest 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 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.**

¶ **STAND** for the Final hymn: *Joy to the world!*

Joy to the world! The Lord has 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 world! The Saviour reigns; let us our 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 make the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His Love, and wonders of His Love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

The Blessing & Dismissal

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

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

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

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

All **Amen.**

Deacon The Mass is ended. Go in peace.
Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

*Voluntary: In dulci jubilo
BWV 729 – J. S. Bach*



Wishing you the love, joy and peace this Christmas. Fr Neil

Support

To support St Nicolas' Church, please make a bank transfer using the details below and use the reference 'St Nicolas'. Donations to our Good Cause can also be made direct, using the reference 'Good Cause'. Thank you.

PCC of St Nicolas Sort Code: 60-09-21 Account No: 59904003

We are members of the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)**, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. The service allows you to:

- Give One-Off amounts by Credit/Debit cards & Apple/Google pay wallets
- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Sign up to inflation-linked giving annually
- Enhance your gift by having Gift Aid at 25% added to your giving
- Give securely and donate anonymously, if you prefer
- Scan the QR Code which will take you direct to our page on their website

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/guildford-st-nicolas-guildford/>



Looking Ahead

Saturday 4th January 2025

4 – 6 pm Messy Church @ GURC

Sunday 5th January : Epiphany

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am *Three Wonders* Sung Mass

Sunday 12th January : Baptism of Christ

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Parish Mass with Junior Church

Sunday 19th January : Epiphany II

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Parish Mass with Junior Church

Sunday 26th January : Epiphany III

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am School Sunday Mass Pet Service with GURC

YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

There is no Coffee Shop on 3rd January

Friday 10th January Coffee Shop re-opens

Friday 31st January Monthly Lunch

www.saintnics.com parishoffice@saintnics.com 01483 564526