

Anna Benefice
Abbots Ann & Upper Clatford & Goodworth Clatford

Christmas Night



Service of Holy Communion

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
Isaiah 9.2*

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory.

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:

give to the earth the peace that we long for

and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven

through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gospel reading

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you O Lord

At the end

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

Sermon

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name:

that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow,

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

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

And also with you

Communion Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise...

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

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.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

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

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

The table of bread and wine is now ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We receive communion.

Post communion prayer

The priest will lead us in a prayer before we say together

**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.**

Blessing

We go out into Christmas Day in the peace of Jesus Christ.
May his peace, that lightens the soul with faith,
lifts the spirit with hope and leavens the world with love,
be yours tonight and always.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Go with you, and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.