



**St Peter
Le Poer**



Midnight Communion Christmas Eve 2020

Welcome to St Peter's Church this evening. We extend a very warm welcome to all.

Once in royal David's city

stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high:
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Gathering and Greeting

Please stand.

Welcome

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven,
stoops heaven to earth.

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

All: Amen.

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

All: And also with you

The final candle in the
Advent Wreath is lit



Prayers of Penitence

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.

Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

We say the

Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest

The Collect

A moment of silence is kept. The minister
says the opening prayer set for tonight.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived
in a land of deep darkness – on them
light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy; they rejoice
before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the
bar across their shoulders, the rod of their
oppressor, you have broken as on the day
of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping
warriors and all the garments rolled in
blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests upon
his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace for the
throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with
justice and with righteousness from this
time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Titus 2.11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all,¹² training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age to live lives that
are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and
the manifestation of the glory of our great
God and Saviour,¹⁴ Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is

who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over

their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵ 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.'

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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

Please be seated

Profession of Faith

Please stand.

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

Please remain standing:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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.

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

how still we see you lie!
above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in your dark streets shining
is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love:
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven:
no ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him - still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell -
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

During the hymn the bread and wine are brought to the Lord's Table.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: 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.

The minister praises God for his mighty acts and all respond by 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.

The prayer recalls the Last Supper. Then:

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

The prayer continues. At the end:

... for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.

The Breaking of 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.

We say the

Agnus Dei

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.

The Giving of Communion

The minister invites the people to receive
Communion:

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood
which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he
died for you, and feed on him in your
hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion in one kind (bread only) will be brought to you in your places – please keep your hands by your side if you would prefer not to take communion.

We remain seated for the carol

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child:
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, `Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Please stand

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.**

**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.**

Dismissal Gospel

Hear the good news of the Word made flesh according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace.
Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All: Glory, thanks and praise to God.

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;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

God from God, Light from light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created;
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, in the highest!'
O come, let us adore him...

Yea Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,...

This week's Services

Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion (said)
Rev'd Philip Sudell
10.30am – Christmas Day
Family Celebration

Sunday 27th December

9am Parish Communion
Christmas 1
Rev'd Philip Sudell

We wish you a very
joyful Christmas

Contacts:

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Email – office@saintpeterlepoer.org.uk
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Churchwardens:

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Hall hire:

For enquiries about hiring the Church Hall please call Lynne Punched - 07815 523660

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