

Parish of Sanderstead and Hamsey Green

All Saints' Church, Sanderstead



Proclaiming Jesus, changing lives, serving our community

Midnight Holy Communion Christmas Eve 2021

*Welcome to this service of Holy Communion
- a very special occasion on which we remember that
God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son to be born for us.*

*A very Happy Christmas! Let's gather at the start of the service in
quietness, wonder and worship at the gift of a baby born in
Bethlehem over 2000 years ago - our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ!*

*The Offering today will be split equally between Croydon Refugee
Day Centre, Charity No.1064465 and Growbaby, Charity No
1176660.*

*The service will be led by Revd Jeremy Groombridge. You are
welcome to sit for the pieces led by the Choir, and to stand for the
carols. **Please ensure that you wear a face-covering
throughout the service.***

*We are now able to offer Communion in both forms - bread and
wine. If you would prefer to partake in just one form - a wafer -
please indicate by saying "one" to the Priest. If you would like
both bread and wine please say "both" and the Priest will then dip
your wafer in the wine and place it in your hands.*

*If you need a gluten-free Communion wafer, speak to one of the
stewards.*

We begin our service with an introit sung by Adam Jones: O Holy night - Adolph Adam.

"O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn: fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices, O night divine, O night when Christ was born."

Carol: While Shepherds watched their flocks



WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT,

all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.'

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:'

'The heav'nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
begin and never cease.'

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

And also with you.

Blessing of the Crib

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.

Pause for silent prayer.

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 and ever. **Amen.**

<i>Prayers of Penitence</i>

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Let us turn to the light 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.

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.

Christ, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins, bring you his pardon and peace, and make you holy to serve him in the world. **Amen.**

'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.
Amen**

The minister leads us in the special prayer (the 'Collect') for today

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

Silent Prayer

**Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



First Reading: Isaiah 9: 1,6,7

¹ The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: See, amid the winter snow



SEE, AMID THE WINTER SNOW born for us on earth below;
see, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years:

*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn! hail, redemption's happy dawn!
sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Low within a manger lies he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime, reigns above the cherubim:

Holy Saviour, born on earth, teach us by your lowly birth;
grant that we may ever be taught by such humility.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

Today Christ is born

Alleluia

Today the Saviour has come

Alleluia

Today the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

The Sermon



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.
With the Father and the Son he 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 Prayers of Intercession

Father, 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, **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, **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, **hear our prayer.**

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

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

Keep in safety all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

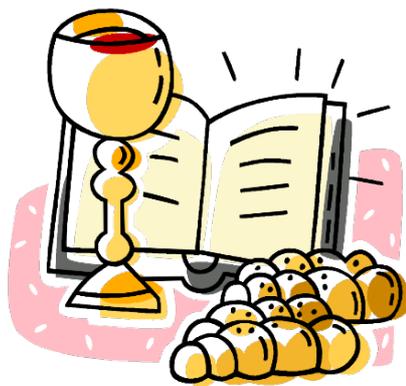
In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God, **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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament



In Holy Communion we focus on God's gift to us of Jesus. This is the special meal God gave us to remember Jesus' death and resurrection.

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.

And also with you.

The table is prepared

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer B

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 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 thanks and praise.

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 night 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:

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.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

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 Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary 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,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Let us pray



Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light
and life.**

The Invitation to Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

These words are sung:

**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 Holy Communion is distributed (in one form only - bread).

Everyone is invited. All who receive Holy Communion in their own churches are welcome. The stewards will guide you.

If you would prefer to partake in just one form - a wafer - please indicate by saying "one" to the Priest. If you would like both bread and wine please say "both" and the Priest will then dip your wafer in the wine and place it in your hands. When receiving communion, it is customary to say 'Amen' as you receive the elements. If you do not wish to receive Communion bow your head for a prayer of blessing.

Time of Quiet

Communion Carols



IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow;
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

(Choir only) Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

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 You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

V 1-2 anon; 3 J T McFarland 1906

Prayer after Communion

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.

**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**



Here the good news of the Word made flesh according to John
Glory to you, O Lord

The Word became flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

Prayer of God's Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas:

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



HARK! THE HERALD-ANGELS SING,

"Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

*Hark! the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.



Hail, the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

C Wesley, altd

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

Organ Voluntary: In dulci jubilo by F. W. Zachow

Remember the cash collection for Growbaby and Refugee Centre.

We wish you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.