

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Detail from East Window in Upper St. Alphege Chapel

## Midnight Mass

24th December 2025

Setting: Spatzenmasse (Sparrow Mass) by Mozart  
with The Coventry Gloria by Peter Jones

# THE GATHERING

## Processional Hymn – Once in Royal David's City

**Verse 1 Solo**      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.

2.    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 mean and lowly  
         lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3.    For he is our childhood's pattern,  
         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.
4.    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 is gone.
5.    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,  
         when, like stars, his children, crowned,  
         all in white shall wait around.

## The Greeting

*Please stand as able.*

*President:* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

May the God of deep joy and peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*The President introduces the service and welcomes the people.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*President:* Christ the bringer of hope has come  
to offer us healing and forgiveness.  
Let us be still on this silent night and call to mind our sins.

*A moment of stillness...*

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.**

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.**

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

*President:* 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.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The light shines in the darkness,  
And the darkness did not overcome it.

*The final candle of the Advent Wreath is lit. We say together:*

*All:* Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Amen.

## Gloria (Glory to God)

*We stand with the choir who lead us in the singing of the Gloria.*

Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

We worship you,  
**All: glory in the highest,**  
give you thanks,  
**All: glory in the highest,**  
praise you for your glory.  
**All: Glory to God, glory in the highest,**  
**peace to his people, peace on earth.**  
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,  
**All: have mercy on us;**  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer,  
**All: receive our prayer.**  
Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.  
**All: Glory to God, glory in the highest,**  
**peace to his people, peace on earth.**  
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 glory of God the Father.  
**All: Glory to God, glory in the highest,**  
**peace to his people, peace on earth.**  
**Amen, Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*President:* Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder  
at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**All: Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Isaiah 52.7-10

*At the end of the reading:*

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

## Psalm

Psalm 98

*We remain seated whilst the choir sings the psalm.*

## Second Reading

Hebrews 1.1-4

*At the end of the reading:*

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

## The Gospel

*Please stand. The Choir sing the Gospel acclamation.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:  
full of Grace and Truth.  
Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the reading:*

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

## Sermon

*Please sit.*

*Please stand as able.*

*President:* Let us affirm our faith in God:

**All:**        **We believe in God the Father,  
From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

*Please sit or kneel.*

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

*Each section of the prayers ends with the following bidding and response:*

**All:**        Holy God,  
              **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Father, in this holy night  
angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.  
Receive the worship we offer  
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and all the saints  
through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All:**        **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*Please stand as able.*

*President:* This holy night the angels sang,  
‘Glory to god in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people’  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All:**       **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God’s peace.

### Offertory Hymn – O Come all ye faithful

1. 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!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:



4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

### Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

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

*All:* Amen.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*We remain standing, as able.*

The Lord is here.

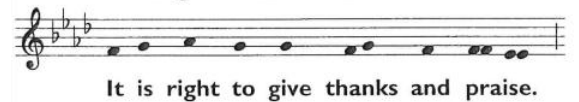
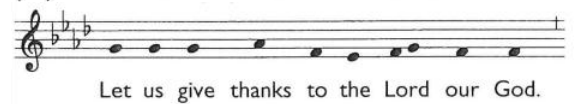
**All His Spirit is with us.**

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.**



Lord of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the gift of your Son, Jesus,  
born of Mary on this holy night,  
and laid in a manger.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

*The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus (text in Latin, translation below):*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>Lord God Almighty.</i>
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.	<i>Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

We thank you, loving Father, because,  
when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
"This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
"This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins."

So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, Joseph, the angels, shepherds, Alphege,  
and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*President:* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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;  
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**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated 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 Invitation**

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

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

*We are all invited to draw near to God today. If you, or your children, regularly receive the bread and wine at any Christian church, you are most welcome to do so. If you do not usually receive the bread and wine, or prefer not to do so today, you are invited to come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. If you do this, you may want to hold your hands together in prayer so that we know your intention. Thank you.*

## **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

*The Choir sings the Agnus Dei while those administering Holy Communion receive.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.*

## **The Giving of Communion**

*The stewards will guide everyone to the right location.*

## **Communion Anthems**

*During the administration of Holy Communion the Choir will sing 'Quem Pastores'*

*Trad. German, arr. John Rutter.*

### **Communion Hymn – It came upon the midnight clear**

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heav'n's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come.  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend their hov'ring wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

### Post Communion Prayer

*President:* 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.

*All:* Amen.

*All:* O Love Divine,  
be born in our hearts again this Christmas,  
that we may come home to you,  
the One in whom all our journeys  
have their beginning and their ending  
Amen.

### Final Hymn – Hark the herald angels sing

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.*
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-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.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.*

## The Blessing

*Please stand as able.*

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

**All:** **Amen.**

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

**All:** **Amen.**

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

**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.**

Go in peace to proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All:** **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Organ voluntary:** Praeludium in D major - Buxtehude

*On behalf of all the clergy, lay staff, and volunteers here at St Alphege Church, and  
throughout Solihull Parish, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and a  
peaceful New Year.*

**Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives**

[www.solihullparish.org.uk](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk)

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