

St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

**29th December 2019**

#### THE GATHERING

**Introit hymn:** 63 ‘O little town of Bethlehem’

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

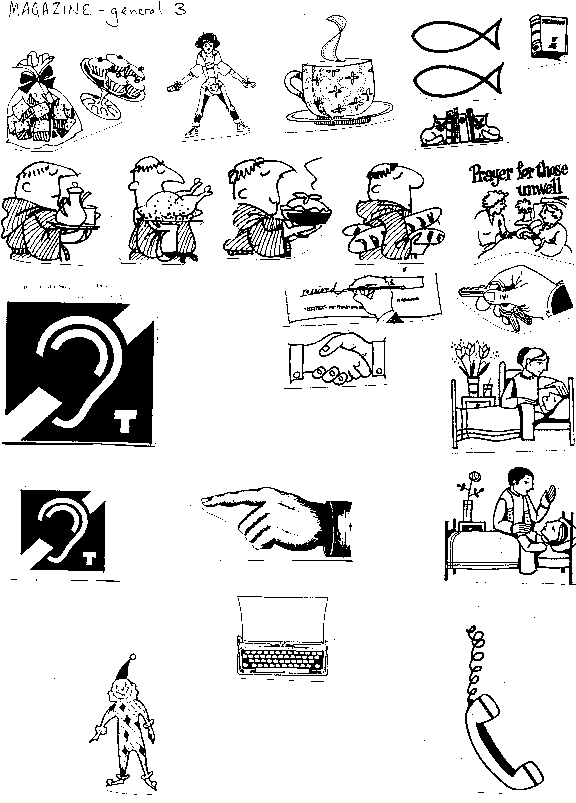
All: And also with you.

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest: 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.

(After a period of silent reflection)

All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.



Priest: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All 🎜 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.

**Collect:** Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** *(Is 63. 7–9)*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  74 ‘While shepherds watched their flock by night’

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 2. 10–18)*

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’ Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual hymn:** *(please stand)* 64 ‘Of the Father’s love begotten’

##### THE GOSPEL

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

All 🎜 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew. *(Mt 2. 13–23)*

**All 🎜 Glory to you, O Lord**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All 🎜 Praise to you, O Christ.

##### The Sermon

Please stand to say the Nicene Creed:

Priest: We believe in one God,

All: 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.

The Intercession *(please kneel)*

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father

The prayers are led by a member of the congregation. Each section ends:

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

* **those who are ill:** (4) Vera Wood, Ann Carmen (3) Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Joyce Hetherington (2) John Hall, Pauline Smith, Pete Harris (1) Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw
* **those who have died:**  Alan Ashbrook
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**

***Sunday:*** David Sutcliffe (senior)

***Monday:*** Mary Timothy, Frances Taylor, Emily Philburn

***Tuesday:*** Richard Walker ***Wednesday:*** Elsie Faulkner, Beryl Hayes

***Thursday:*** Peter Appleton ***Friday:*** Reg Griffiths

***Saturday:*** Roy Gardner, Ron Hollingsworth

After the final petition:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**The Peace**   *(please stand)*

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

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to share the peace with one another.

**Offertory Hymn:** ‘On Christmas night all Christians sing’

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,

on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,

news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,

then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,

when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,

when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,

angels and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:

all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:

‘Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen’

Eucharistic Prayer E *(please kneel)*

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, 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:

All 🎜 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.

Priest:We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

Priest: 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.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

All: 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.

Priest: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Holy Communion is administered at the front of Church. Everyone is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion at this Eucharist. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward at the same time.

**Hymns during Communion:**

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,

Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,*

*The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom, white as the lily flower;

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Saviour.

*The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood;

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, for to do us sinners good.

*The rising of the sun ...*

41 ‘A great and mighty wonder’

**After Communion:**

Priest: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all 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. **Amen**

**Recessional Hymn:** 44 ‘Angels from the realms of glory’

**THE DISMISSAL**

Priest: Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

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**Services and Notices for the week:**

Weds 1st:  **The Naming of Jesus**

7.00pm Eucharist

Thurs 2nd: 10.30am Eucharist

**Next Sunday: The Feast of the Epiphany**

**(5th Jan) 10.00am Sung Eucharist and**

**Procession of the Wise Men**

**Tea and Coffee:** served after the service this morning. Please join us.

**The First Sunday of Christmas 29th December 2019**

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father

(All kneel)

Leader: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear when we pray in faith:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you know each one of us by name and are always ready to help and protect us. May we grow in stature and faith, learning from the teaching of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the Church throughout the world and pray today for the Dioceses of Gabini in Rwanda and Gambia in West Africa.

We ask your blessing upon all Christians who are being persecuted or penalised for their faith.

We remember those who are struggling with doubt and those who lack any teaching in the faith.

Bless Paul our Bishop and all your Church in the service of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We give thanks for our land and for its freedom; and we pray for Elizabeth our Queen and for those who govern us.

We remember in your presence those who are refugees or homeless at this time.

We ask your blessing upon the world’s poor and all those who are unable to use their abilities and talents.

Bring lasting peace to the people of Syria.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask your blessing upon our homes and all our loved ones that they may live in peace and be free from poverty. As we approach the New Year, we commend ourselves to your care and ask you to direct our hearts and minds at all times.

We pray for all children; and especially those who have been taken into care, and families who find it difficult to cope. We pray for parents who have lost a child over this past year.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We give you thanks for the medical profession and for all who care for our well-being.

We ask your blessing upon all who are ill, whether at home or in hospital. We continue to pray for Vera Wood, Ann Carmen, Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Joyce Hetherington, John Hall, Pauline Smith, Pete Harris, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw and any we bring to mind this morning.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We give thanks that you are our Redeemer; that you seek that we should not perish but have everlasting life.

We remember friends and loved ones who are departed from us, and those who have died recently including Alan Ashbrook.

We pray too for David Sutcliffe (senior), Mary Timothy, Frances Taylor and Emily Philburn whose anniversary of death falls at this time, and who now share in your glorious kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth, we join our prayers with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saints in glory.

Merciful Father,

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

**The First Sunday of Christmas 29th December 2019**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

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**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  74 ‘While shepherds watched their flock by night’

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