

St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

**31st December 2017**

#### 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.

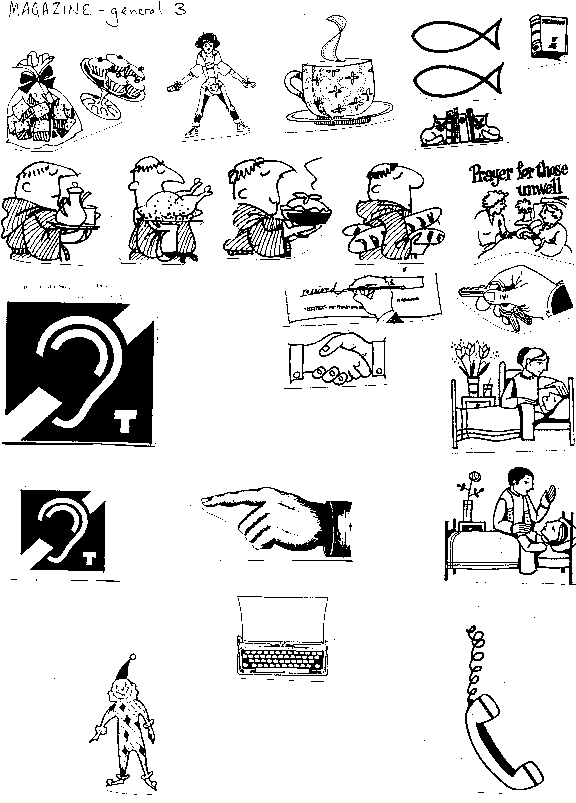
All: And also with you.

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

*(sing)* 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** *(Isa 61. 10 – 62. 3)*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  ‘God rest ye merry gentlemen’

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | God rest you merry, gentlemen,  Let nothing you dismay,  For Jesus Christ our Saviour  Was born on Christmas Day,  To save us all from Satan’s power  When we were gone astray:  *O tidings of comfort and joy,*  *comfort and joy,*  *O tidings of comfort and joy* |  |  |
| *2* | From God our heavenly Father  A blessed angel came,  And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  How that in Bethlehem was born  The Son of God by name:  *O tidings of comfort and joy ...* | *3* | The shepherds at those tidings  Rejoiced much in mind,  And left their flocks a-feeding,  In tempest, storm and wind,  And went to Bethlehem straightway  This blessed babe to find:  *O tidings of comfort and joy ...* |
|  |  |  |  |
| *4* | But when to Bethlehem they came,  Whereat this infant lay,  They found him in a manger,  Where oxen feed on hay;  His mother Mary kneeling,  Unto the Lord did pray:  *O tidings of comfort and joy ...* | *5* | Now to the Lord sing praises,  all you within this place,  and with true love and fellowship  each other now embrace;  this holy tide of Christmas  all others doth deface.  *O tidings of comfort and joy ...* |

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians** *(Gal 4. 4–7)*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke *(Lk 2. 15–21)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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) Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith (3) Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Barbara Cook, Val Carter, Bill Lowson(2)Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington (1) Su Williams, Eleanor Moran, Carol Latimer, Kerrie Hadland, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman, Michael Holland, Peter O’Connor
* **those who have died:**  Hilda Smith, John Gleave
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**

***Monday:*** Beryl Hayes

***Tuesday:*** Peter Appleton

***Wednesday:*** Reg Griffiths

***Thursday:*** Roy Gardner, Ron Hollingsworth

***Friday:*** Gladys Kenwright

***Saturday:*** Betty Hilton

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:**  ‘Good king Wenceslas’

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All | Good King Wenceslas looked out  on the feast of Stephen,  when the snow lay round about,  deep, and crisp, and even.  brightly shone the moon that night,  though the frost was cruel,  when a poor man came in sight,  gath’ring winter’s fuel. |
| Men | ‘Hither page, and stand by me,  if thou know’st it, telling,  yonder peasant, who is he,  where and what his dwelling?’ |
| Women | ‘Sire, he lives a good league hence,  underneath the mountain,  right against the forest fence,  by Saint Agnes’ fountain.’ |
| Men | ‘Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  bring me pine logs hither:  thou and I will see him dine,  when we bring them thither.’ |
| All | Page and monarch, forth they went,  forth they went together;  through the rude wind’s wild lament,  and the bitter weather. |
| Women | ‘Sire, the night is darker now,  and the wind blows stronger;  fails my heart, I know not how;  I can go no longer.’ |
| Men | ‘Mark my footsteps good, my page;  tread thou in them boldly:  thou shalt find the winter’s rage  freeze thy blood less coldly.’ |
| All | In his master’s steps he trod,  where the snow lay dinted;  heat was in the very sod  which the Saint had printed.  Therefore, Christians all, be sure  wealth or rank possessing,  ye who now will bless the poor,  shall yourselves find blessing. |

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

*(sing)* full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, highest. Hosanna in the highest, the highest, the highest, 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 *(sing):* 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 flow’r;

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,

to do poor sinners good.

*The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a prickle,

as sharp as any thorn,

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,

on Christmas Day in the morn.

*The rising of the sun ...*

The holly bears a bark,

as bitter as any gall;

And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,

for to redeem us all.

*The rising of the sun ...*

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 ...*

67 ‘See amid the winter’s snow’

**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 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:** ‘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 men on earth be so sad,

since our Redeemer made us glad,

then why should men 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,

heaven 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’

**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:**

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

11.00am Eucharist followed by coffee and mince pies at the vicarage – all welcome.

Weds 3rd: 12 noon Shop helpers meet in the Hall

7.00pm Eucharist

Thurs 4th:10.30am Eucharist

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

**(7th Jan) 10.00am Sung Eucharist and**

**Procession of the Wise Men**

**The First Sunday of Christmas 31st December 2017**

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 places where Christians are persecuted for their faith, especially the faithful in Egypt and Syria.

Bless the Diocese of Zululand and the Church in this country.

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.

Bless all who are poor in our world and all those who are unable to use their abilities and talents for the common good. Be with those who strive to overcome injustice and poverty.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask your blessing upon our homes and loved ones that they may live in peace and free from the ills of this world. As we approach the New Year, we commend ourselves into 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 any 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 at home or in hospital. We continue to pray for Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Barbara Cook, Val Carter, Bill Lowson, Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington, Su Williams, Eleanor Moran, Carol Latimer, Kerrie Hadland, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman, Michael Holland and Peter O’Connor; 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; and that your will is that we should enjoy everlasting life.

We remember friends and loved ones who are departed from us, and those who have died recently including Hilda Smith and John Gleave.

We pray too for Beryl Hayes 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 31st December 2017**

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

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  ‘God rest ye merry gentlemen’

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | God rest you merry, gentlemen,  Let nothing you dismay,  For Jesus Christ our Saviour  Was born on Christmas Day,  To save us all from Satan’s power  When we were gone astray:  *O tidings of comfort and joy,*  *comfort and joy,*  *O tidings of comfort and joy* |  |  |
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**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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