

St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

**27th December 2020**

**Please wear a mask. Separate households must sit apart. Only the choir can sing. Keep social distances. Keep safe. At the end of the service please leave the building and talk outside.**

*All the responses will be said.*

*We welcome the Rev Pam Lovatt as our celebrant and preacher today*

#### **THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:** **63 ‘O Come all ye Faithful’ omit v5**

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

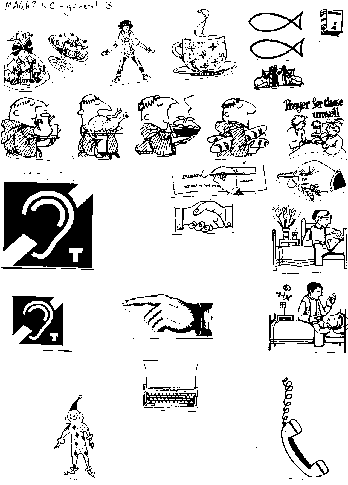
Priest: The Lord be with you.

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 *(please stand)*

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** *(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.**

**Gradual hymn: 62 ‘O Little town of Bethlehem’**

*(After the hymn please stand for the Gospel)*

Priest The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

and we have seen his glory.

All: 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:** Marion Greatorex, Pauline Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Stringer, Joyce Crozier, Pete Harris, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw,
* Bob Timmis.
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**

***Monday:*** Marian Roberts, Fred Preece

***Tuesday:*** David Sutcliffe senior

***Wednesday:*** Frances Taylor

***Saturday:*** Peter Appleton

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 by waving or bowing or both*

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 say 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, 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 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. Go up to the altar steps. Return by either side and not down the middle .Keep your mask on and remove to eat on the way back.

*During the distribution of the Sacrament, the following carol is sung:*

**‘The Holly and the Ivy’**

**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: 53 ‘Hark the herald angels sing’**

**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:**

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

**(3rd Jan) 10.00am**

**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 and for all involved in developing vaccines and looking after people who fall victim to the corona virus.

We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. We continue to pray for Marion Greatorex, Pauline Smith, Michelle Smith, Michael Stringer, Joyce Crozier, Pete Harris, Eileen Whitehead, Lynn Shaw, Bob Timmis 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.

We pray too for Marian Roberts, Fred Preece, David Sutcliffe senior, Frances Taylor and Peter Appleton 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 27th December 2020**

**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.