



**THE MIDNIGHT MASS  
of the  
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**24 December 2020 at 11 p.m.  
The Anglican Parish of Rothesay**

*Celebrant & Preacher*  
**Fr. Paul Rideout, Rector**

**Organ & Trumpet Prelude**

A Christmas Fantasy - *David J. Lennon*

Overture (Suite in D Major) - *G. F. Handel*

**Introit Carol**

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, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Text. John Francis Wade (1711-1786)  
Music. attr. John Francis Wade  
Tune. Adeste Fideles

**The Our Father**

**The Collect for Purity**

*All.*

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Summary of the Law

*Celebrant*

OUR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*The cantor sings* **Kyrie eleison.** (*Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan*)

Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>
Christe eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy upon us.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>

## Gloria in excelsis (*sung together*)

*Merbecke*

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect for Christmas

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you;

*People*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated for the readings.*

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*

(9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm (96)*



Pro - claim the won-ders of the Lord a - mong all the\_ peo-ples.

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord in his temple,  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: "God is King!"  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus*

(2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Good news and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy Spirit.**

*Reader* A Reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke. (2:1-20)

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying

in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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. *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## **The Homily**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Nicene Creed** *(together)*

*All stand.*

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Intercessions**

### **The Confession & Absolution**

*Minister.*

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

*Kneeling, together:*

**ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Then shall the Priest pronounce this Absolution and the Comfortable Words.*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and

strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Offertory Carol

O little town of Bethlehem  
how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
and praises sing to God the King  
and Peace to men on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Text.* Philip Brooks (1835-1893)

*Music.* Melody, trad. English, harm. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Tune.* Forest Green

### Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel for ever and ever. All that in the heaven and in the earth is thine.

*All* **All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.**

### Thanksgiving & Consecration

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you;

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts;

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Celebrant* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the

company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

*The cantor sings the* **Sanctus & Benedictus**

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*All kneel for the consecration. At the end of the prayer, all respond, Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you;  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

### **The Prayer of Humble Access** *(together)*

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

*The cantor sings the* **Agnus Dei.** *(Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan)*

O LAMB of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

### **THE COMMUNION**

*If you are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and you receive communion in your own denomination, you are welcome to receive the sacrament today. If you wish to receive communion, please stand in your place and the sacrament will be brought to you in your seat. Once you have received, you may sit or kneel.*

### **Carol during Communion**

*At the conclusion of the Communion, all stand.*

*The congregational candles are lighted and we sing the carol, Silent Night, holy night.*

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Text.* Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
*Music.* Melody, Franz Gruber (1787-1863), harm. Carl Reinecke (1824-1910)  
*Tune.* Stille nacht

*At the conclusion of the carol, the candles are extinguished.*

### **The Our Father** *(together)*

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 them that 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 Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant*

ALMIGHTY and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee that Thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

*All*

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

*Celebrant*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Carol**

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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn 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 th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as one of us 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 we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Text.* Charles Wesley (1701-1788)  
*Music.* Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)  
*Tune.* Mendelssohn

### **Organ & Trumpet Postlude**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo - G. F. Handel, arr. by Brian Binder*