

Welcome to Christmas Communion at St Botolph's Church

Welcome

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

We light the advent candles

As we light the Christmas candle, we rejoice that Jesus is born.

He is hope, peace, joy and love for all the world.

Lord Jesus Christ, you bring the life of God into the world.

Fill us with your light, now and always. Amen.

Carol

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:"

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favour rests
goodwill shall never cease."

We say sorry to God

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. **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. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We are forgiven

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins

that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give glory to God

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.

A prayer for tonight

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1.1-4 *read by Alan Grimsey*

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Carol

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Gospel reading: John 1:1-14 (please stand) *read by Alan Grimsey*
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

Sermon

We affirm our faith in God

We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.

**We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and
friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows
no end.**

***We are led in prayer** by David Poppleton*

We share God's Peace

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
and also with you.

We will take an offering during the carol

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;
O come, let us adore Him;
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;

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

We celebrate Holy Communion

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

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

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Send your Holy Spirit 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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us.

Prayer after Communion

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. 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 the 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 the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

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 us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

We are sent out

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary – Sortie by Cesar Franck



PEACE, HOPE & JOY

Christmas Blessings

From

St Botolph's

Join us again this Christmas

Christmas Day – 10.00am Christmas Family Communion
a joint celebration at Christ Church, Ireton Road

29th December – 10.30am Morning Worship
a joint celebration at Castle Methodist Church

5th January – 10.30am Morning Worship at St Botolph's
12th January – 10.30am Holy Communion at St Botolph's
19th January – 10.30am Morning Worship at St Botolph's
26th January – 10.30am Holy Communion at St Botolph's



Giving is an important part of our worship.

Did you know, one of the easiest ways to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/>