



St EDWARD

KING & MARTYR

25 December 2023 / Christmas Day

Welcome to St. Edward's!

We hope you are blessed by your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again. There is an Induction Loop in the Nave for those using a hearing aid and wheelchair access available at the West door. The toilet is available in the vestry, with an additional parent and child area for those with infants and toddlers if needed. Children are always welcome in service and will find books and activities in the back of the church.

‘Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.’

Isaiah 7.14

Hymn 34 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (*We stand to sing*)

Welcome & Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The light shines in the darkness. **And the darkness has never put it out.**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession (*Please sit or kneel*)

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

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.**

The Gloria *(Please stand)*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

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. *[Refrain]*

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. *[Refrain]*

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. *[Refrain]*

The Collect

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take
our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure
virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your
children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your
Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 42 – In The Bleak Midwinter

New Testament Lesson (Hebrews 1.1-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' 7 Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' 8 But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' 10 And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; 12 like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

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

(Al - le - lu - ia) Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalm 98 *(Please remain seated as the psalm is sung)*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Gospel (*We stand as we welcome the Gospel*)

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John (1.1-14). **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 in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Sermon 'The Word Became Flesh' – Matthias Grebe

Affirmation of Faith *(We stand to declare our faith together)*

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, Who created all things: **For by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son who was slain: **For with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: **The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *(Please sit or kneel for our intercessions)*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace *(We stand to share the 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn 37 – While Shepherd's Watched

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly king, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he

took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St. Edward and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Please sit or kneel)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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 this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your 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.

Giving of Communion *(All baptised believers are invited to receive communion here. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, with their hands downwards on the rail. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please raise one finger.)*

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 35 – Hark The Herald Angels Sing (*We stand to sing*)

Notices

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Notices

Upcoming Services:

Friday 29 December - 10.30am BCP Morning Prayer

Sunday 31 December - 11am Holy Communion

Parish Giving: We are grateful for all of your gifts! Offerings may be given during the services or for Standing Orders, via BACS [**SORT: 20-17-19 / ACCT #: 30851477 – “St Edwards Vestry Account”**]. There is also a SumUp machine by the door of the church for contactless giving: Power on, enter an amount, and tap your card.

Contact Details

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Church Staff

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