



St EDWARD

KING & MARTYR

31 December 2023 / First Sunday of Christmas

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 47 – Brightest and Best (*Please 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, 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.

New Testament Lesson (Galatians 4.4-7)

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of
a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And
because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' 7 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. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Psalm 148 *(Please remain seated as the psalm is sung)*

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

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. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke (2.15-21). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

15 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.' 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 21 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon 'The Fullness of Time' – Jonathan Yonan

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.**

(cont'd overleaf)

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 33 – Of The Father's Love Begotten

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 51 – As With Gladness *(We stand to sing)*

Notices

Blessing

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.**

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

Notices

Upcoming Services:

Friday 5 January - 10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 7 January - 9am BCP Holy Communion

- 11am Holy Communion

Volunteer Rota: If you are able to help with Scripture readings, intercessions, tea/coffee preparation, and tidying-up at our services over the coming weeks please sign-up on the sheet by the door.

Parish Giving: We are grateful for all of your gifts. Offerings may be given during the services, via BACS (Sort: 20-17-19 / Acc.: 30851477 – “St Edwards Vestry Account”), or on the SumUp machine by the door (power on, enter an amount, and tap your card). Thank you!

Contact Details

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Church Staff

Vicar-Chaplain: Revd Dr Mark Scarlata
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