

# Christmas Day. 25 December, 2020

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Broadcast to the communities of the  
Chaplaincy of Midi-Pyrénées and Aude, from  
the Episcopal Church of St. Paul in the  
Desert, Palm Springs, California*

**Welcome**

Hymn – O Come All Ye Faithful (words on screen)

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

*All:* **Amen**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*All:* **And also with you**

(J-A)

**Collect for Purity**

*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**

**(J-A)** 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.

**(J-A) :** Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are everlasting. Lord, have mercy.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

**(J-A):** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. Christ, have mercy.

*All:* **Christ, have mercy.**

**(J-A):** O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you. Lord, have mercy.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who forgives all who truly repent: have mercy on 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.

*All* **Amen.**

The Gloria

**(J-A):** Glory to God in the highest,

*All:* **and peace to God's 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 of the Day**

*Priest:*           The Lord be with you  
*All:*                ***And also with you***  
*Priest:*           Let us Pray

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 First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## Psalm 98

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

## **The Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-12**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'

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.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

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.'

Gradual Hymn – O Come O Come Emmanuel (words on-screen)

## The Gospel

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

*All:* **Alleluia**

*Priest:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

*The Priest concludes:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The 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,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate of 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

J-A With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

J-A For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy.*

J-A Today we join with Christians around the world as we pray for peace, reconciliation, understanding, tolerance and justice for everyone. We pray for the welfare of the Church of God, ever striving to bring about the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy*

J-A For our Bishops Robert and David, for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons. and for all Readers and licensed lay leaders and ministers of the Worldwide Anglican Communion: for Roman and Orthodox leaders and clergy: for all Christian leaders: and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy.*

J-A For the Queen, the President of France, The President and Vice President-elect of the United States, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy.*

J-A For the cities, towns and villages of our Chaplaincy, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy.*

J-A For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A For the good earth which God has given us, and that the wisdom and will to conserve it will take urgent precedence with leaders and industrialists with the power and authority to do so. That by our continued efforts the effects of climate change may be slowed, halted and ultimately reversed, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, and for all those persons around the world suffering from the effects of the Corona 19 virus pandemic, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A We take a moment to remember, either silently or aloud, all those who have died in their due time, all who have died as a result of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic virus, and all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy**

J-A For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

J-A That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*All Lord, have mercy.*

J-A In the communion of Paul, Andrew, Mary, Eugene, Peyronis and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*All To you, O Lord our God.*

J-A: Almighty God,

*All hear our prayer, and fulfil your purposes in us,  
as you accomplish your will,  
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

*Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,  
hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives.*

*All: Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Priest: Alleluia! 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.*

### **The Lighting of the Christmas Candle**

### **The Offertory**

*During the preparation of the Altar, we hear/sing:*

**Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning**

*Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your  
goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth  
has given and human hands have made. It will become for us  
the bread of life.*

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Priest:* Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

*All:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## **The Holy Communion**

*Priest:* The Lord be with

*All:* **and also with you**

*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 sing 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.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
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 friends, 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

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*All:*       **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*Priest:*   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 your 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 Paul the Hermit, the patron of this church, Andre, the patron of the church in Alet les Bains, Mary, patron of Notre Dame de l'Assomption in Toulouse, The patrons of the Catholic Chapel at Terre Rouge, in Cahors, St. Engene, patron of Brens, St. Peyronis, patron of Caylus, of Stephen the first Martyr, Thomas the Apostle and the Holy Innocents, whose remembrances we celebrate this week, 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, now and for ever.

*All:*       **Amen**

*Priest:*   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.**

## **The Fraction**

*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.**

## **The Agnus Dei**

*All:* **Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give us peace.**

*Note:* *As the priest consumes the consecrated bread and wine you may also wish to partake of a small amount of bread and wine in your own home. Although not consecrated, and although not communion in the usual sense, this may be regarded as the Agape meal shared in ancient times, symbolic of friendship, love, and commitment to community.*

***During the consumption of Communion and the ablutions of the sacred vessels, we listen to/sing Silent Night***

## **Post Communion Prayers**

*Priest:* God our Father,  
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

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood — given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbour. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.** *(From Bishop Erwin)*

### **The Blessing**

*Priest:* 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 upon you now, and remain with you always.

*All:* **Amen.**

### **Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

### **The Dismissal**

**(J-A):** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

*All:* **In the name of Christ, Amen.**