

31 December - First Sunday of Christmas

Hymn 158 - God rest you merry, gentlemen.

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

2 From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

5 Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace.

This holy tide of Christmas
all others doth efface:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

3 The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind;
and went to Bethlehem straightway
the blessèd babe to find:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

4 But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary, kneeling down,
unto her Lord did pray:

O tidings of comfort and joy!

The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

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

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord.

All praise to his name.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitence - saying sorry

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,
we confess that we have sinned against you;
we have broken your commandments;
we have often been selfish,
and we have not loved you as we should.
For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Forgiveness - a reminder of God's gift

Preparing - to hear God's word

The lesson reader says:

Let us hear the word of the Lord.

So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Galatians 4.4-7 - please be seated

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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

Children's Spot

Abba Father (twice)

Abba Father, let me be
yours, and yours alone.
May my will for ever be
evermore your own.

Never let my heart grow cold,
never let me go.
Abba Father, let me be
yours, and yours alone.

Psalm 148 - we stand to say

1 Praise the LORD.

**Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.**

2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
**for at his command they were
created,**

6 and he established them for ever and
ever— **he issued a decree that will
never pass away.**

13 Let them praise the name of the
LORD, **for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and
the heavens.**

14 And he has raised up for his people a
horn, **the praise of all his faithful
servants, of Israel, the people close to
his heart.**

and so, the people said

Praise the LORD.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit;•

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be for ever. Amen.**

Luke 2.15-21 - please be seated

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. 21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

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

Hymn 111 - There is a name

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

O how I love the Saviour's Name

O how I love the Saviour's Name

O how I love the Saviour's Name

The sweetest name on earth

2 It tells me of a Saviour's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea.

3 Jesus the name I love so well
the name I love to hear
no saint on earth its worth can tell
no heart conceive how dear:

The Sermon - John 1.14

Offering Hymn 175 - Of the Father's love begotten

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2 At his word they were created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the light of moon and sun,
evermore and evermore!

3 O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

4 This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord;
whom the writings of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected,
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

5 Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel-hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Monday: New Year's Day at 11:00 am Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 8:00 pm Mothers' Union & Friends: Scamming and Fraud with the PSNI

Sunday 7th: LARDER/FOODBANK SUNDAY 8:30 Early Communion ONE

10:00 (C) and 12:00 (K) Parish Communion

Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of

Praying Together - Intercessions

Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.** *and finally*

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,

you know us and love us,

you share our lives and hear our prayer.

Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Sunday Collect - The First Sunday of Christmas

The Lord's Prayer - we pray with Jesus

A Thanksgiving - we give thanks to God

For every blessing we have received **we give you thanks and praise**

The Blessing

Hymn 102 - Name of all majesty

Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery,
King of the ages by angels adored;
power and authority, splendour and
dignity,

bow to his mastery, Jesus is Lord!

2 Child of our destiny, God from eternity,
love of the Father on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done sending his
only Son,

Christ the beloved One, Jesus is Lord!

3 Saviour of Calvary, costliest victory,
darkness defeated and Eden restored;
born as a man to die, nailed to a cross
on high,

cold in the grave to lie, Jesus is Lord!

4 Source of all sovereignty, light,
immortality,

life everlasting and heaven assured;

so with the ransomed, we praise him
eternally,

Christ in his majesty, Jesus is Lord!

Be with us Lord, as we go out into the world.

May the lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth;

**may the ears which have heard your Word listen only to what is good
and may our lives, as well as our worship,**

be always pleasing in your sight, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2024!