

Offertory Hymns: 29 It came upon the midnight clear.

42 While shepherds watched their flocks by night.

During these hymns the bread and wine for the Eucharist will be brought to the altar. Holy Communion may be received by all who are baptized and communicant members of their own part of the Christian Church. Others are welcome to come for a blessing (please carry a book). The Collection will also be taken. Cash Collections at the Christmas services this year will be given to CHASE (the local Children's Hospice Trust) and to TASK BRASIL (abandoned street children of Brazil trust).

Note: For many years the Christmas cash collections at St Mary's have gone to children's charities. However, there will also be an opportunity for anyone to contribute to St. Mary's after the service; there will be a designated plate in the Welcome Area. Visitors are invited to read the green slip in the pews and, if they are taxpayers, to use one of the envelopes provided, and to fill in the details, so that we can reclaim the tax, and thereby add 38% to the value of the contribution.

Remain standing for Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Christmas Preface on page 302 [Sanctus and Benedictus: *Britten* in D]

Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.

After the Invitation to Communion:

Carol: 'Away in a manger.'

[Words of Hymn 22: Traditional Normandy melody, sung by the choristers.]

Holy Communion will be given at the front of the nave (except for the choir). Please come up the centre for Communion (or a blessing), and return via the side aisles.

Music during the Communion:

There is no Rose. [Text 15th cent.]

There is no Rose of such virtue as is the Rose that bore Jesu.

There is no Rose of such virtue as is the Rose that bore Jesu. Alleluia.

For in that Rose contained was heaven and earth in little space. Res miranda.

By that Rose we may well see that he is God in persons three. Pars forma.

The angels sang the shepherds to 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' Gaudemus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. Transsumas.

I sing of a Maiden. [Text c.15th cent.]

Hadley

I sing of a Maiden that is makeless,

He came all so still to his Mother's bower,

King of all kings to her Son she ches.

As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where his Mother was,

He came all so still where his Mother lay,

As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and Maiden was never none but she,

Well may such a lady God's Mother be.

After Communion all stand after *Let us pray.*

Post-Communion Prayer: page 381.

Christmas Blessing and the Dismissal.

Carol: Hymn 25 God rest you merry, gentlemen.

A Happy Christmas to everyone.

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

2005

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There are separate leaflets for all the Christmas services at St Mary's, which began with the well-attended Arrival at Bethlehem Service and Blessing of the Crib yesterday afternoon. Midnight Mass was celebrated during the night in the presence of a large congregation, and the Christmas Dawn Eucharist took place at 0800. There will be Holy Communion at 1200. The 1000 Eucharist is celebrated next to the Crib, the focal point of our devotion today, as we honour our Lord Jesus Christ, the 'Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.'

1000 SUNG EUCHARIST AT THE CRIB.

Nave Altar

It will probably be helpful to turn up some pages before the service begins, using the black and red bookmarks. The running order of the service and the Bible readings are on the same paper today.

Order 1: page 167. The Christmas Day prayer: page 381.

Other Christmas material: page 302. Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Britten*, *Missae Brevis* in D.

Introit hymn 30: O come, all ye faithful.

(*First two and last two verses only*)

Greeting and *Station at the Crib.*

+In the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

When peaceful silence lay over all the world, and night was in the midst of her swift course, then your Almighty Word, O God, leaped down from your royal throne. (*Wisdom 18:14,15*)

The Word was made flesh.

Alli: And dwelt among us.

God's love for us was revealed when he sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him. (*1st John 3:9*)

We have seen his glory.

Alli: The glory of the Father's Son, full of grace and truth.

Almighty God, pour your grace into our hearts: that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ as the Child of Bethlehem, so, by his cross and passion, grant that we may be made partakers of his glorious resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie eleison (sung by the choristers):

[*Britten* in D]

During *Kyrie eleison* the procession moves to the altar, where incense is offered as a symbol of ascending prayer. This is the time to recall our own personal prayers at Christmas, to recall our own sins and failings and to pray for God's forgiveness.

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.

Christians, come rejoicing now,
 Come with rapture singing:
 'Mighty wonder! Christ is born',
 Alleluyas ringing.
 Christ the son who knows no night,
 King of kings for ever,
 Mary, star with light divine:
 Radiance fading never.

Israel's prophets long had told
 Of these tidings thrilling;
 And to Gentile lands a sign,
 Sibyl's words fulfilling.
 Come, behold this holy Child,
 Every land and nation:
 Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
 Born for our salvation.

Before 11th cent. tr. *FRH 2005*.

[Note: This ancient Sequence for Christmas has the unusual image of Our Lady as a shining star, giving forth a 'ray' (that is, Jesus), greater than the parent star itself. The hymn also refers to the Sibyl, the oracular figure of the classical Greek world, also regarded as inspired in some second century Jewish and Christian literature known as the Sibylline Oracles. The Sibyl is also mentioned in the Christmas hymn 'Of the Father's heart begotten'.]

At the end of the hymn, all turn to face the reading of the Gospel.
 Gospel responses on page 172.

The Holy Gospel From St Luke 2
 Part of St Luke's account of Christ's Nativity.

In those days a decree was issued by the emperor Augustus for a census to be taken throughout the Roman world. This was the first registration of its kind; it took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone made his way to his own town to be registered. Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to register in the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting her child. While they were there the time came for her to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn. Now in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid; I bring you good news, news of great joy for the whole nation. Today there has been born to you in the city of David a deliverer - the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger." All at once there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, singing praise to God: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights." After the angels had left them and returned to heaven the shepherds said to one another, "Come, let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child, they related what they had been told about him; and all who heard were astonished at what the shepherds said. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered over them. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen; it had all happened as they had been told.

Sermon by the Vicar

The Nicene Creed: page 173

All kneel for the Prayers, then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

All join in singing *Gloria in excelsis*: Tune: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Webbe)*

Glory be to God on high,
 Peace on earth the angel-cry
 To his favoured people here.
 Lord and God, our heavenly King,
 Worship, thanks and praise we bring,
 For your glory stunning clear.

Holy One in heaven's height,
 Seated at the Father's right,
 Ever in his glory shine!
 You alone, O Christ, are Lord,
 Jesus Christ the eternal Word,
 With the Spirit all-divine.

The Prayer for Christmas Day: page 381
 All sit.
 Old Testament Reading From Isaiah 9
 The prophet awaits a coming Prince of Peace.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. For a child has been born to us, a son is given to us; he will bear the symbol of dominion on his shoulder, and his title will be: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty Hero, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Wide will be the dominion and boundless the peace bestowed on David's throne and on his kingdom, to establish and support it with justice and righteousness from now on, for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Reader: This the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Remain seated for the carol (sung by the choir): The Sussex Carol.

On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring:
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,
 When from our sins he set us free,
 All for to gain our liberty.

New Testament Reading Titus 2: 11-14
 God's gift of Jesus calls for a response in life.

For the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind; and by it we are disciplined to renounce godless ways and worldly desires, and to live a life of temperance, honesty, and godliness in the present age, looking forward to the happy fulfilment of our hope when the splendour of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus will appear. He it is who sacrificed himself for us, to set us free from all wickedness and to make us his own people, pure and eager to do good.

Reader: This the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.