

Midnight Mass

Christmas, 2020



Midhurst Parish Church

Welcome to Midhurst Parish Church on this Holy Night.

We gather to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, God incarnate.

In the act of sharing the Eucharist we remember with thanksgiving the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his self-giving for the sins of the whole world. As the bread and wine are offered, symbols of that self-giving, we offer ourselves to God and receive at the communion the life of Christ. So nourished, we are enabled to go out into the world to live in the service of God.

All those baptised in the Christian faith in any denomination and who have received Holy Communion before are welcome to receive here today. If you do not receive Holy Communion you are invited to come forward and kneel with those who do, to receive a blessing. Please keep your hands down and your head bowed as a sign that you would prefer a blessing.

This booklet contains all that is needed for the service. At this time particularly, it is important that members of the congregation feel safe and comfortable, so please note the following:

- You will be allocated a seat. We ask you kindly not to move, so that we can maintain safe social distancing.
- Please keep your face covering on throughout the service.
- Holy Communion is offered in one kind only (the bread).
- Please wait to be invited to come forward.
- If you do not receive Communion, you may choose to come forward for a blessing or to remain in your seat.
- Please adhere to a one-way system, moving up the centre aisle towards the altar, and returning to the back of the church down either side aisle.
- Please be careful to keep yourself at a safe distance from lit candles.

If you have any additional needs or require any help this morning, please speak to one of the welcomers.

The Welcome

The Lord be with you
All and also with you

The Lighting of the Advent Crown

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world.

All Amen.

**All Lord Jesus, light of the world, you have come to us.
Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the Highest! Amen.**

The Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution is given...

The God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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.

All Amen.

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.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

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.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

The Gospel (Good news) is at the heart of our faith. We show honour to the gospel by remaining standing and turning to face the gospel book as it is read from the centre of the church.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

The Sermon

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

**All We believe in one God,
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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

Please be seated

The Prayers of Intercession

Prayers for the church the world and for all human need.

Please stand

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And always with you.

We sign the words 'Peace be with you' using sign language.

Please remain standing.

The Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

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, and on this night 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:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

All Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 Breaking of Bread and the Invitation

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.**

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 say the Agnus Dei.

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

The Receiving of Communion

Please come forward when you are invited to receive a Communion or a blessing.

Prayers after Communion

In this night 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.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience and courage 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.

All Amen.

Proclaiming the Word made flesh, go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

*Organ Voluntary:
Toccata from Symphony No.5 by C-M Widor.*

**Thank you for worshipping with us. We would be
delighted to welcome you to one of our regular services
held each Sunday and Wednesday at 10am**

**We wish you a very happy Christmas and
A peaceful New Year.**

www.midhurstparishchurch.net



Midhurst Parish Church

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