

Loving God, help us in all of this to keep sight of the heart of Christmas, what it all really means- to celebrate the birth of the infant Christ, to worship him as joyfully and reverently as shepherds and wise men long ago, to welcome and follow him as faithfully as those who left everything to be his disciples. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Loving God, forgive us if we have lost sight of what this season truly means. Forgive us if we have become over-familiar with its simple yet wonderful message. Forgive us if we have failed to make room for Christ in our Christmas celebrations. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

Speak to us now through all that we shall do and share, all we shall sing and hear, so that our lives may be touched by the wonder of his presence, you have given us so much, **receive our praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal - We stand for the Blessing and Dismissal

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 now, redeemed in love, renewed in faith, restored in strength, and refreshed in spirit. Return to your journey of discipleship, in the name of the risen Christ who goes before you. Amen.

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

Hymn

Hark, the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new born King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconcile
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim.
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.*

Christ by highest heaven adored.
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

Hail the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!
*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.*

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by,
Born that man no more will die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.*

Wishing you a Happy Christmas



The Parish of Wellow

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION

9.30am - Christmas Day 2017

Welcome/Notices

I bring you good news of great joy: a Saviour has been born to you. **Unto us a child is born, a son is given.**

Carol - sung to 'I saw three ships come sailing in'

1 When God from heaven to earth came down 3 The shepherds heard the angels sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, the songs rang out in Bethlehem town on Christmas Day in the morning.

2 For Christ was born to save us all, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, and laid within a manger stall on Christmas Day in the morning.

4 Now joy is ours and all is well, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day, so sound the organ, chime the bell on Christmas Day in the morning.

Confession

We confess that amid all the joys and festivities of this season we have sometimes forgotten what Christmas really means, and have left the Lord Jesus out of our thinking and living. **Father, forgive us**

Help us to remember that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, who was born to be our Saviour: **Lord, help us.**

We confess that we have allowed the most important event in history to become dulled by familiarity: **Father, forgive us.**

Help us in this act of worship to recapture a sense of wonder, and discover again the stupendous fact that the creator of the universe has come to us as a newborn baby: **Lord, help us.**

We confess to a selfish enjoyment of Christmas while we do little to help the homeless families of your world: **Father, forgive us.**

Fill our hearts with love that cares, that understands and gives; show us how we can best serve those in need for the sake of him who was born in a stable, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Communion

Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high voices full and joyful; these you deserve. For when we were nothing, you made us something; when we had no name and no faith and no future, you called us your children; when we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us; when we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. And, look, you prepare a table for us offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very self so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed, and made new again. You are worthy to receive all our praise. So we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven;

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, for all that you have done and all that you have promised what have we to offer?

Our hands are empty, our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things. we are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But with you is mercy and the power to remake us. So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us your body and your blood, healing, forgiving and making us whole; And grant that we may become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen

Carol

1. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becomes poor.

2. Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising

Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

3. Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldest have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

First Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Bread & Wine is shared

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands. Now we put our lives in yours.

Take us, shake us, remake us; no longer is what we have been important; it is what, with you, we can be, starting now. Amen.

Carol

1On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
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.

2On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

3When sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

Second Reading – Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk – The image of the invisible God - Tom Benyon

Carol - In dulci jubilo, translated by John M Neale (1818–1866)

1 Good Christian men, rejoice

With heart, and soul, and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before him bow,

And He is in the manger now:

Christ is born today,

Christ is born today.

2 Good Christian men, rejoice

With heart, and soul, and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss:

Joy! Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we thank you for this season of Christmas - for all it has meant to so many over the years, all it continues to mean to us, and all it will mean in generations to come. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for carols old and new, for familiar and much-loved words of Scripture, for all that speaks of your coming among us in Christ. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for reunions with family and friends, for the spirit of giving and receiving, for the mood of goodwill and celebration. You have given us so much: **receive our praise.**

We thank you for all the good things we will enjoy good food, good company, good fun. You have given us so much, **receive our praise.**

4All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God, and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.'