

# **Christmas and Epiphany**

*Welcome to St Paul's.*

*We hope you feel at home here. Please stay  
for refreshments after the service and say hello.*

*If you'd like to find out more about the church,  
please complete a welcome card –  
available near the entrance –  
and we'll be in touch.*

*This is a service for all ages and having babies  
and children here is a delight. But the sound  
is relayed to the hall and parish rooms,  
which you are welcome to use if you wish.*

*If you would like to give during this service,  
a plate and a card machine are available near the  
entrance. Please gift aid if you're able to do so.*



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## A warm welcome to all

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**Hymn**            *Stand to sing*

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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but have eternal life.  
**Alleluia.**

**Prayer of  
preparation**    **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.**

**Collect**            *Special prayer for today*  
  
*Sit*

**Storytime**        *Children come and sit by the dais steps*  
*After the story they go to their groups.*

**First Bible  
reading**          *A reading from the Old Testament / epistle*  
  
For God's holy word,  
**thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**            *Stand to sing, and during this hymn the children go to  
their groups*  
  
*Remain standing for the gospel reading*

**Gospel  
reading**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to ...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*After the sermon there are two minutes' silence  
for reflection*

**Prayers**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,  
and let us thank God for his goodness.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Stand*

**Declaring  
our faith**

**Though he was divine,**

**he did not cling to equality with God,**

**but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself**

**and was obedient to death,**

**even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus**

**every knee should bow,**

**and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**Prayer of  
penitence**

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins  
and bring you to eternal life.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace**

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.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please be aware that some people would prefer  
not to touch*

**Hymn**

*The offertory is presented during this hymn*  
*Sit*

**Communion  
Prayer**

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*(From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

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:

*Service continues at Holy, holy (p. 5)*

*(From the Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation)*

All honour and praise be yours  
always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

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:

*Tune 952 in hymnbook*

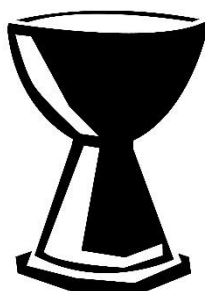
**Holy, holy, holy Lord.  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**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:

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





**The Lord's  
Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of  
the Bread**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*Tune 952 in hymnbook*

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

**Giving of  
Communion**

Christ is the true bread  
which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing*

*Stand*

**Peruvian  
Gloria**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.**  
To him be glory for ever.

**To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, amen.

**Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father.**  
To him be glory for ever.

**To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, amen.

**Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.**  
To him be glory for ever.

**To him be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, amen.

**Alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen, alleluia, amen.**

**Hymn**

**Blessing**

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;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Refreshments are served at the back of church.  
If you are a newcomer or visitor, please come and  
say hello to one of the welcome team or clergy.*

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St Matthew with St Paul  
*Pilgrims on a journey*