

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.  
**Amen**

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. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

**STILL TO COME THIS CHRISTMAS IN  
THE VENTA GROUP OF CHURCHES**

**Sunday 27th December**

10.am Morning Prayer Online

**Tuesday 29th December**

10am Morning Prayer Online

**Thursday 31st December**

10am Morning Prayer Online

**Sunday 3rd January**

9.30am Praise and Worship - Caistor St Edmund

10:30 Morning Worship - Stoke Holy Cross

## CAISTOR ST EDMUND CHURCH Christmas Midnight Service

The people walking  
in darkness have  
seen a great light;  
they lived in a land  
of deep darkness  
but a light has  
dawned on them.  
Isaiah 9:2



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A small version of the nativity scene illustration described above, showing the manger, Mary, Jesus, and the animals under a star.

**Thursday 24th December 2020  
11:30pm**

*Welcome*

'Do I not fill the heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

**Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,

**and now we see you as a newborn child.**

*Prayer as the advent wreath is lit*

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

CAROL: It came upon a midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above it's sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o'er it's Babel- sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophet-bards foretold,  
when, with the ever-circling years,  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

God our Father; 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. Amen

**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.**

CAROL: O come all ye faithful

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels.  
*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing.

*Blessing*

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story. **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed, he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story. **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks; broke it and said: This is my body given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, in remembrance of me.

This is his story. **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story. **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

**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**

We break this 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.**

*Please stay in your seats while communion or a blessing is given to you in your seats..*

After communion, the President prays:

*Prayers of Penitence*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life: Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread: Christ, have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves: Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

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.

**Amen**

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."

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

*Gospel reading:* John 1:1-14

Reader: Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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 **Praise to you O Christ.**

*Sermon*

*Creed*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**We believe in God the Father; from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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 **and also with you**

CAROL: Silent night

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven above  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night  
God's great love giving life  
Let the world together rejoice  
Sing forever with one voice  
Heaven's hope is here  
Heaven's hope is here

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, Love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER***

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.**