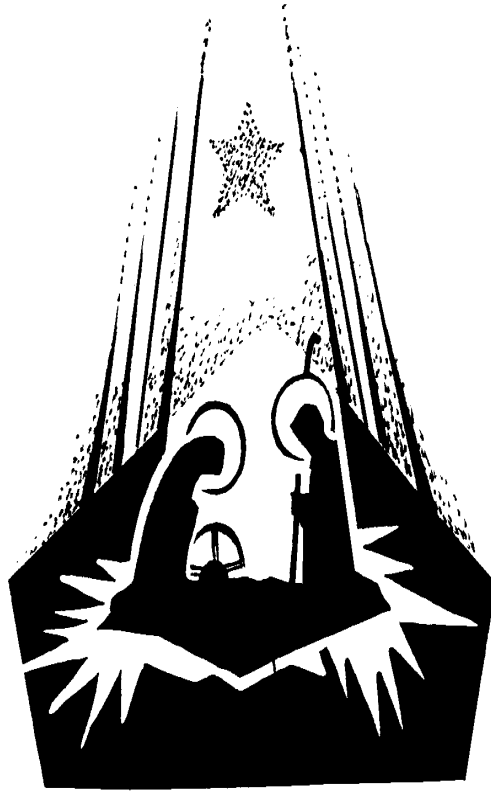


**Ardal Cenhadaeth  
Elwy  
Mission Area**



**Mission Area Eucharist  
for the First Sunday of Christmas**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Eglwys Sant Asa  
St Asaph Parish Church**



## Entrance Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

*Nahum Tate 1652-1715  
Tune: Winchester Old*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you  
**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

*The Priest gives an introduction to the Eucharist and calls the people to penitence.*

*Silence*

**Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry and truly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and lead us in his way  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,  
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!  
Peace to all your people through the earth be given:  
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,  
Singing alleluias to our heavenly King.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son:  
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!  
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,  
Show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,  
Seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:  
Lord and God, we praise you; highest heaven adores:  
In the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

*Tune: Camberwell*

### **The Collect of the Day**

Let us pray: *Please remain Standing*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Galatians 4. 4-7

*Please SIT*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*Please STAND*

God rest you merry, gentlemes,  
let nothing you dismay!  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we had gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
a holy angel came;  
the shepherds saw the glory  
and heard the voice proclaim  
that Christ was born in Bethlehem –  
and Jesus is his name:

The shepherds at these tidings  
rejoiced in heart and mind,  
and on the darkened hillside  
they left their flocks behind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this holy Child to find.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all people in this place;  
with Christian love and fellowship  
each other now embrace,  
and let this Christmas festival  
all bitterness displace:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
    comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Traditional, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> C  
Tune: God rest you merry*

## **Luke 2. 15-21**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*Canon Neil Burgess*

*Please SIT*

## **The Affirmation of Faith**

*Please STAND*

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

**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.**

## **The Intercessions**

*Please SIT*

*At the end*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Please STAND*

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given,  
    and his name is called the Prince of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

## Offertory Hymn

See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn,  
hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in heights sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss,  
down to such a world as this!

Virgin mother, Mary, blest,  
by the joys that fill thy breast,  
pray for us, that we may prove  
worthy of the Saviour's love

*John Goss 1800-1880  
Tune: Humility*

## The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,  
we take this wine  
to follow Christ's example  
and obey his command.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

Heavenly Father, tender and compassionate,  
by this sacrament create in us your family  
love so true and deep,  
that in this broken world we may be a sign of unity;  
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## **The 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 our thanks and praise.**

True and living God, the source of life for all creation,  
you have made us in your own image.

Always and everywhere we give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the Word made flesh.

Through him you give to the eye of faith  
a new vision of your glory;  
you reveal your perfect love,  
and invite us to love and worship you,  
the unseen God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
we praise your glorious name:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.  
And we lift our hearts before you  
as a token of our love.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,  
Blessed is the one who comes to us  
in your name.**

**And we lift our hearts before you  
as we give you thanks and praise.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, almighty God,  
because on the night he was betrayed  
the Lord Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

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;  
when he had given you thanks  
he gave to them and said,

Drink this, all of you;  
this cup is the new covenant in my blood  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins:  
do this as often as you drink it  
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore, loving God,  
recalling now the sacrifice of Christ your Son  
once for all upon the cross  
and the triumph of his resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son  
and be filled with his life and goodness.  
Unite us in Christ and give us your peace  
that we may do your work and be his body in the world.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honour and glory are yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Silence*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of Christ here among us,  
let us pray with confidence to the Father.

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The priest breaks the bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body  
for we all share in one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei is sung*

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

*The Invitation to Communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The Sacrament is administered with these words*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**      The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

**Hymn at the end of Communion**

Silent night, holy night.

All is clam, 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 afar,

heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:

Christ, the Saviour is born,

Christ, the Saviour is born.

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.

*Stille Nacht, Joseph Mohr 1792-1848  
Tr. John Freeman Young 1820-1885*

*Silence is kept*

## **The Sending Out**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:  
**his love is everlasting.**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will.  
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.**

## **Final Hymn**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748*  
*Tune: Antioch*



## Notices

**Refreshments.** Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**Praying for Growth.** Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your  
Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**The Community Fridge** takes place every Sunday from 5-7pm at the Parish Church.

**Sunday Sheet.** Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

**Kentigern Guild.** The next meeting of the Kentigern Guild will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 2.30pm in the Parish Church. The speakers will be Chris Evans and James Elson of Denbighshire County Council who will talk about Tremeirchion Bridge. All welcome!

## The Week Ahead

### 1<sup>st</sup> Monday – The Naming of Jesus

9am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer  
5pm Evening Prayer  
6pm Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – Morris Williams

9am Morning Prayer  
10.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer  
10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*  
10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 5<sup>th</sup> Friday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*) *at the Cathedral*  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday – The Epiphany of Our Lord

9.30am The Parish Eucharist  
9.30am Holy Eucharist *at St Mary's*  
11am The Cathedral Eucharist  
3.30pm Evening Prayer

#### Contact:

01745 532581 (Diocesan Office)  
01745 535957 (Parish Church)

#### Cathedral Website:

[www.stasaphcathedral.wales](http://www.stasaphcathedral.wales)

#### Parish Church Website:

[stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)

#### St Mary's Cefn:

<https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/a015-1041/>