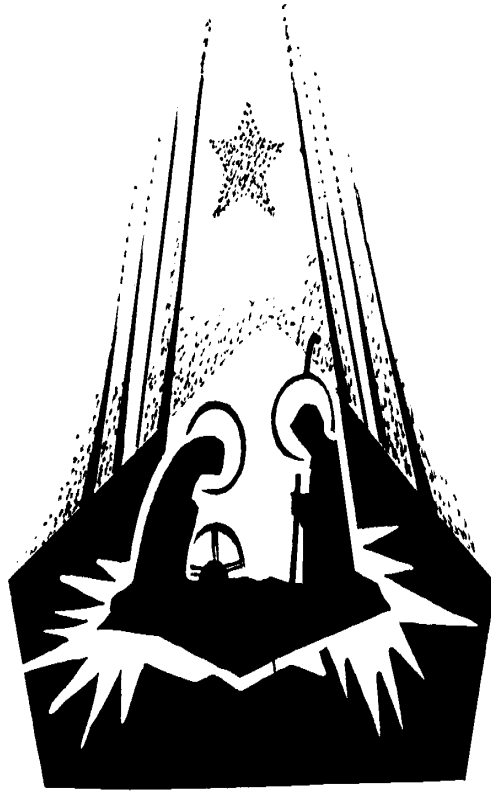


**Ardal Cenhadaeth
Elwy
Mission Area**



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

29th December 2024

**Cadeirlan Llanelwy
St Asaph Cathedral**

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.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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 18th C
Tune: God rest you merry*

Luke 2. 41-52

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year parents the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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 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 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.**

Tune: Holy, holy – Jimmy Owens

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.**

Betty Pulingham

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.**

Silence is kept

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

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.

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 4-5pm 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.

Choir Tour. The Cathedral Choir have been given the amazing opportunity of singing in Finland on a choir tour in May next year. We are raising money to make sure this can happen. For more details, and to donate online, please see the following

link: <https://gofund.me/560aa0db>

If you would like to donate in cash or by cheque, please clearly mark your donations 'Choir Finland' and hand to a member of the cathedral team or pop it in the collection plate or donation box in the cathedral. If you are able to,

please share the Go Fund Me page – from the page on the link above, click 'Share' and you can share on social media or copy the link to send to friends and family. Thank you.

O Come, let us adore him is an Advent Study Group put together by the Bishops of the Church in Wales. We will be running the group at the Parish Church on the following Monday: 30th December starting at 11am. The sessions will last no longer than one hour. A warm welcome to all!

Thank you to all those who decorated the churches of the Mission Area for the Christmas celebrations and to those who contributed towards the cost.

Food4Thought Lunch. This has now finished for a break over Christmas and will start back again on Thursday 16th January 2025.

The Kentigern Guild meets next on Wednesday 8th January at 2.30pm at the Parish Church. Kate Jordan will be giving a talk on 'Working with Willow'.

The Week Ahead

30th Monday – Tathan, Abbot

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

11am 'O Come let us adore him'

Advent Study Group at the Parish Church

5pm Evening Prayer

31st Tuesday – John Wycliffe

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

1st Wednesday – The Naming of Jesus

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

2nd Thursday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

3rd Friday – Morris Williams

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)

5pm Evening Prayer

4th Saturday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

5th Sunday – THE EPIPHANY

9.30am The Parish Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at St Mary's Cefn*

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer

Contact:

01745 532581 (Diocesan Office for Cathedral & St Mary's Cefn)

01745 535957 (Parish Church)

Cathedral Website:

www.stasaphcathedral.wales

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

St Mary's Cefn:

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

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26

Samuel's mother played her part in nurturing the spirituality of her son, the son she had asked of, and then given to, the Lord.

Psalm 148. 7-14

Colossians 3. 12-17

As God's beloved people, dwelling in Christ's word, living out worship of him, thankfulness will mark us as his.

Luke 2. 41-52

Learning about his Father, the young Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and favour with God and people.

