

## St Michael's Church, Highworth

10.15am service - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Welcome

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

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory.

Carol O come all ye faithful

The glory of the Lord has been revealed and all flesh shall see it together

As the Christmas candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world: a light no darkness can quench. The shepherds kept watch by night, and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you, the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness and fill your Church with your glory.

Prayer of Penitence

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

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You were born for our salvation Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace: Christ, have mercy, **Christ have mercy.** 

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Absolution
May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Collect
Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

silence is kept

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen

Prayer after Communion
God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds
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

## Blessing

The peace of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born of the blessed Virgin Mary, abide with you, in your heart and in your home And the blessing ......

Carol Hark the herald angels sing

The Dismissal
Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.



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Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever:

Amen

The Lord's Prayer
As Jesus 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 this day 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.

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution of Communion

Reading Titus 3: 4-7

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God** 

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2: 1-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord : **Praise to You O Christ** 

Carol Away in a manger

Talk

Song Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called....

Affirmation of Faith
Let us declare our faith in 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

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## **Prayers**

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.

## Carol In the bleak midwinter

Prayer

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen** 

Thanksgiving 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.

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and cloth us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

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

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ will come again.
Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

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