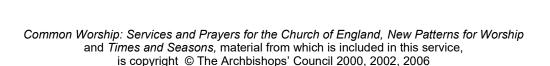


Christmas Day service 10.15am

28th December Morning worship 10.15am





St Michael's Church, Highworth

11.15pm service - Wednesday 24th December 2025

Welcome

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Carol O come, all ye faithful

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Joy to the world: Christ is born! Lord Jesus, Light of Light you have come among us. Christ is born! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

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.

Prayers of Penitence
Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

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

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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.

Assurance of Forgiveness
May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Gloria Light of the World

The Collect
Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world of darkness with the light of salvation.
Give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the reading

Reading Isaiah 9: 2-7

This is the word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Carol Joy to the World

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 Hark the herald-angels sing

The Blessing
May the joy of the angels
the humility of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ Child
be God's gifts to you this Christmas;
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.



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Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread
The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion
Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion
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.

Gospel reading (*Please stand*)
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.**

John 1: 1-14

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

Sermon

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.

Prayers of Intercession Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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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.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Carol It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Preparation of the table

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry who raises the poor, who fills our praise. Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All 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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

Silence



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