

# St Peter's Church, Streatham Christmas Day 2024



Welcome to St Peter's! You will find everything you need in this booklet please join in with the parts in bold. If you would like a **gluten-free** host at communion, please let a welcomer know before mass.

You are welcome to light a candle before the service, at either statue at the front of church.

There is a children's area if little ones need a break or a space to play.

There are instructions in the booklet to sit down and stand up, but please do as is comfortable to you.

*As the bell rings, the Altar party enters. Please stand, if you are able.*

1 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.

3 No more let sins and sorrows  
grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 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, wonders of his love.

### GREETING AND WELCOME

✠ In the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you:

**And also with you**

*The Priest introduces the Mass, followed by:*

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

God our Father, today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.

Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your  
love. We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

*The clergy then calls us to confession:*  
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.**

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.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*,  
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,  
and keep *you* in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*We sing the song of the praise, the Gloria:*

Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.

**Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. **Glory...**

We worship you, **glory in the highest,**  
give you thanks, **glory in the highest,**  
praise you for your glory. **Glory...**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us, **have mercy on us;**  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer, **receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, glory in the highest,  
peace to his people, peace on earth. **Glory...**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, the glory of God the Father. **Glory...**

Amen, **amen.**

#### OPENING PRAYER.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him and as at this time  
to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we,  
who have been born again and made your children by adoption  
and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
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.**

Please sit for the IST READING A reading from the Prophet Isaiah  
(9.2–7)

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with  
righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

*The choir sing Ding Dong Merrily on High:*

1 Ding dong, merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angels singing.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

2 E'en so here below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3 Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may ye beautifully rhyme  
your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

## 2ND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus (2.11–14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,<sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

*Please stand as the music starts for the GOSPEL reading (accounts of Jesus life and teaching) & face the procession as it moves to the centre of church: Alleluia! **Alleluia!** A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. **Alleluia***

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** (Luke 2.1-14)  
Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON. *Silence may be kept after the sermon for reflection.*

*Then we stand for THE CREED*

**We believe in one God, the Father,  
the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the  
Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven,**

*[All bow for] was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



*Please feel free to sit or kneel for the PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL*  
Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

*After each prayer, the leader may say:*  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*After praying for the dead, they may say:*  
✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:  
**and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Then we ask for the prayers of the saints in heaven, and Mary, saying:*  
**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.**

*The priest ends the prayers: ...Jesus Christ: Amen*

*Please stand for THE PEACE*  
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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We turn to our neighbour and say 'peace be with you', or shake hands*

OFFERTORY: While the altar is prepared, the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward. During the hymn, a collection is taken, supporting the work of St Peter's, Brixton and Norwood Foodbank, and Tariro Orphanage in Zimbabwe. you are welcome to make a donation or, if you would like, you can use a card reader at the back of the church, or the QR code.



1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

#### PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS AT THE ALTAR

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable  
to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the  
praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good  
of all his Church.**

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

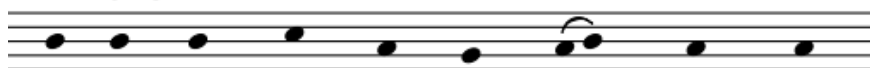
## THE EUCHARIST – HOLY COMMUNION



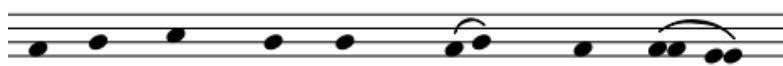
The Lord be with you **R.** and al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. **R. We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest praises God for his acts, and then we join with the angels in their song of praise, as the choir sings, in English or Latin:*

*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.*

*The priest, recalling the last supper of Jesus and his disciples, prays that the bread and wine may become the body and blood of Christ.*

*After elevating the host and chalice, we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Great is the mystery of faith:**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*The priest then prays for the church and the world, and the gift of God's spirit, ending, as the priest elevates the gifts. ending:*



for ev-er and ev-er. **A-men.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us



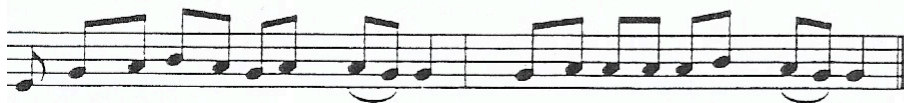
Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, Hal - low - ed be thy name. Thy king - dom come;



thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread,



and for - give us our tres - pas - ses, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us,



and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.

In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

*As the host is broken, the choir sing, in English or Latin:  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed 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.**

## RECEIVING OF COMMUNION

*Please come forward to receive communion after the choir.  
Christians of any denomination are welcome to receive communion.  
If you would like a blessing, ask as you approach, or cross your arms  
over your chest, and this will be given.*

*The choir sing an anthem: Three Ships*

I saw three ships come sailing in.  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three...  
Our Saviour Christ and His Lady...  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three...  
O they sailed into Bethlehem...  
And all the bells on earth shall ring...  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing...  
And all the Souls on Earth shall sing...  
Then let us all rejoice amain...

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *Please stand*  
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;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The altar party moves to the crib for the blessing*

### AWAY IN A MANGER AT THE CRIB

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

## THE BLESSING

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

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours 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 the peace of Christ:  
**Thanks be to God.**

*As the altar party leave, we sing:*

I. 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!*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

3 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:  
*O come...*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come...*

**You are always welcome at St Peter's –**  
whether you come to church every week or have never been  
before. For more information see our website:

[www.stpeters-streatham.org](http://www.stpeters-streatham.org)

**Main service 10.30am every Sunday**