

# St Peter's Church, Streatham

## Midnight Mass 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 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

2 He came down to earth from  
heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

4 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children  
crowned,  
all in white, his praise will sound.

### 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

*The choir sing:* Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, King of Peace: to you be praise and glory forever! The new light of your incarnate word gives gladness in our sorry and presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise. Jesus our saviour and King of the ages, Blessed be God forever. **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 FOR CHRISTMAS DAY:

Let us pray:

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night to shine  
with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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*

## 1ST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (52.7–10)

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

## **Psalm 96 (vv1-3, 11-13)**

*The choir sings:*

*Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord*

**And we repeat:**

***Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord***

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
Song to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

**Response.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day,

Tell among the nations his glory  
And his wonders among all the peoples. **Response**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
Let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
Let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
All the trees of the wood shout for joy  
At the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
He comes to rule the earth. **Response**

4. With justice he will rule the world  
He will judge the peoples with his truth. **Response**

## 2ND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (1.1–4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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:** I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** (John 1.1–14)

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

THE SERMON. *Silence is kept after the sermon for personal 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.

NORWOOD & Brixton  
**foodbank** | **TARIRO**



1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

3 '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:

4 The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

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 LORD'S PRAYER

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



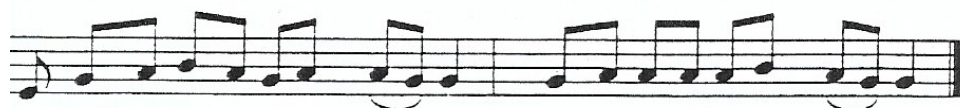
Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, Hal - low - ed be thy name. Thy king - dom come;



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 (Body of Christ) 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 – or feel free to stay in your pew.*

*During communion the choir sing: Infant Holy – David Willcocks*

*Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging  
Angels singing,  
Nowells ringing,  
Tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you!*

We then sing:

1. Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

3 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.

2. 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!

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *Please stand*

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.**

*The altar party process the infant Jesus to the crib scene. Please turn to face them as they move through the church*

I Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Hark!...*

### BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory:

God our Father,  
on this night your Son Jesus Christ  
was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.  
**Amen.**

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

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

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.**

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth: *Hark!...*

**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**