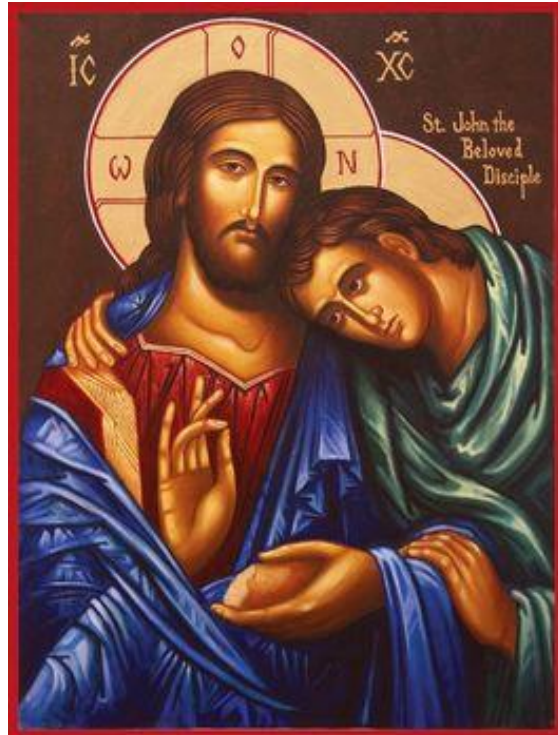


# St John, Apostle and Evangelist

## Christmas 1 Sunday Service

Sunday — December  
27<sup>th</sup> 2020

A Service for all the  
Church Family



## St John, Apostle and Evangelist

*On this third day of Christmas, St. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, proclaims the truths of the Incarnation. The Son of God has become the Son of Mary and we know His name--Jesus, Saviour. In the face of the baby born in Bethlehem, announced by the angels and worshiped by shepherds, we behold the face of God, a human face. In the epistle reading, the Beloved Disciple is still giving joyful witness, sixty years after the Resurrection, to the Word made flesh: "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life--the life was made manifest." (1 John 1:1-2). Not only did his eyes, ears, and hands experience Jesus, but he loved and was loved by this Son of Man. He stood with Mary at the foot of the cross as Jesus died and was one of the first to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ.*

*The online services are a combination*

*the service sheet with links to readers, hymns and music etc. (This can be activated directly from the document sent to you by email, or on the internet at <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/>) and used as normal or 'save' the service document, open it afresh and the links can be activated with the service sheet remaining in place). Alternatively, you can open two browsers on your screen, one to keep the service sheet visible and the other to activate the links.*

*Playlist for all the hymns at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACwqhPJvOGeENk\\_qbbisbrjf](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACwqhPJvOGeENk_qbbisbrjf)*



All the research that we (the Church) have done around Life Events (Baptisms Weddings etc) has told us clearly that being invited is key to continuing a faith journey. So 200 churches across the country are taking part in a pilot scheme to invite families who attend crib and carol services to go 'Beyond the Stable' at services on or around 5th January (Epiphany). When they come to the service, they will get a simple take-home gift to encourage prayer at home – and an invite to return to 'Share the Light' at a service on or near 2nd February (Candlemas). And at that service, there will be a simple take-home gift to encourage prayer.

*Due to the Covid situation we are unable to fulfil these invitations to invite families to come to church at this time, but like St John let us evangelise, we could do this by forwarding our online services to Families that have and will come to our churches for marriages or baptisms etc, or any families or friends that you think may be interested!*

*This is something that All can do from your homes or mobile phones, not just the clergy or wardens. Please in this time after Christmas and in 2021 spread the Good News to someone you know, whether family, friends or neighbours.*

**Hymn 1:** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdASbgux6ds>

*We say together the words printed in bold.*

## Gathering to worship God

### *Greeting*

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Welcome to our all age this All Saints Sunday Service.*

### *Opening Prayer*

**All Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.**

**Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept and the Collect, the prayer of the day, is said.*

God in Trinity,

eternal unity of perfect love:

gather the nations to be one family,

and draw us into your holy life

through the birth of Emmanuel,

our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## Saying sorry to God

### *Confession*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### *God's forgiveness.*

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

**All Amen.**

## *Praise*

Blessed is the Lord

**All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**All and in our song we will praise our God.**

*Hymn 2: A Great and Mighty Wonder*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MToXUy0nChA>

## Hearing and responding to the Word of God

### *Readings*

#### **The First Reading**

##### **From Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3**

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the young plant come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

#### **Zion's new name**

**62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,

her salvation like a blazing torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations will see your vindication,  
and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

<sup>3</sup>You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

### **The Second Reading**

#### **Galatians 4.4-7**

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba,<sup>[b]</sup> Father.' <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

*Hymn 3: Good King Wenceslas Looked Out*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy2JNivFiOE>

### **The Third Reading**

#### **Luke 2.15-21**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

**Sermon: By Revd Steven Poss**

### **Sermon**

Today on this first Sunday of Christmas, only 2 days after Christmas day!, we celebrate the Apostle and Evangelist, St John, who wrote the great Gospel and subsequent letters in the New Testament.

I think if I was ever to receive an unexpected gift from God, other than Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is a great book about him, and that is I believe, John's Gospel!

This Gospel contains the great encounters of individuals with Jesus, such as Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the great prologue and the great "I AM" sayings. These great words are rivalled with St Paul today in his letter to the church in Galatia, where he writes: -

*<sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

Not only do we continue to rejoice in this Christmas season that God has come among us as a baby, but he also gives us his Spirit to affirm that we are his children and heirs to all that he has, including eternity with him.

As we hear from John, Isaiah, Paul and Luke in the Bible, and know that God is our Lord and Heavenly Father, the church urges us to speak and share what we have seen and heard, like the shepherds, and that is surely right. But isn't there a prior need for us to follow Mary and to treasure and ponder and weigh the Christmas story first, for ourselves? There are, after all, experiences that are too rich or raw or intimate to be shared and must wait a long period of reflection, and as we say, processing, before they can be brought to speech.

Only by story can our imagination begin to be amazed by God's coming down to earth in Jesus.

*There was once a king who fell in love with a lowly woman. But how was a king to make his love known to a mere country girl? He considered sending one of his servants. But on hearing of the king's love for her, the woman only laughed in unbelief. How could she know the message was really from the king and not a trick to ridicule her?*

*What could the king do to convince her of his love. One thing he could do: he could visit her himself in all his splendour, making her forget herself in adoration. That might satisfy the woman but it wouldn't satisfy the king because he loved her and desired a genuine loving response from her, rather than his own glorification. He feared she might never be able to forget that he was the king and she a lowly maiden.*

*What more could the king do to express his love. Only one way remained. He must renounce his rights and power and become a servant. If, thought the king, he had the heart of a servant, if his truest self was expressed in his love for the woman, there would be no deception in becoming a servant. He would be expressing his true self. (Parable by Soren Kierkegaard).*

**Amen.**



## *Affirmation of Faith*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*: Graeme Eyre

### **Let us Pray**

Everlasting God, as we approach the start of this New Year, we may find ourselves concerned about what it might bring.  
Reassure us with your loving presence that whatever might happen in the coming 12 months you will be with us.

Lord in your mercy

**All hear our prayer**

Bread of life, your beloved disciple John has brought us your living word,

We pray for our Archbishops Justin and Stephen as they lead our Anglican Communion. We pray for our newly appointed Bishop Guili as she takes up her new post in Chelmsford. We pray for our Rector Steven and our Church Wardens who continue to guide our faith at this time. May your Holy Spirit inspire and encourage them to lead with integrity and turn in what will continue to be a challenging time both for the church, the country and the world.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Light of the world, illuminate the dark places of this world, where sin, violence and death cast their shadow over human lives. We pray for all the victims of war in so many places in our world especially Yemen, the families of the policemen killed in France, and all those damaged by domestic violence in our local communities. Grant them your peace, justice and healing.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Prince of Peace,

We pray for your peace in our nation, as the Brexit deal comes before our leaders and those in Europe. We ask that they will all be willing to accept the proposals and that regardless of our different political views and opinions we will be able to work together for a better future for all the nations involved. We hope now that the division caused by this issue can continue to be healed.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Door of the sheepfold, protect all whose work leads them into danger. We pray for our own emergency services, paramedics, hospital staff, police, fire fighters and lifeboat men and women. Keep them safe from harm and strengthen them when their shift is long and bleak. This morning we also pray for all who had their homes damaged by flooding in other parts of the country before Christmas, for them to have all the help and support they

need. We also pray for the drivers stranded far from home over Christmas and hope they are now on their journeys towards their home – whether that be in England or Europe. Give grace to our loved ones, families and friends, help us to protect, love and care for them all.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

We pray for all of those who are facing adversity. Minister to all who are lost or without faith; bind up the broken, and give rest to the weary. And help us care for and serve them in their time of need. This time of year is difficult for many, and more so with the isolation, uncertainty and difficulty this year.

We pray for:

Phil Marshall

Lois Gardner

Ernest Norman

Molly Garwood

Mike Batt

Beryl Dixon

Jean Winn

Cally Thorpe

Josh Pitman

Georgia

Andy Smith

We pray for the continuing recovery of Kath Bellingham.

We pray too for all those in in our parishes and who have COVID 19, that they may recover and be aware of your healing powers. We pray that all those we know keep safe in these worrying times.

We continue to pray for the staff, residents, and their family members of those in Down Hall and Swan Care Homes. We also pray for those who are suffering and are known only to you.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Resurrection and the life raise us up at the last day with all who have gone before us in faith, with those whom we love but see no longer, with John and all your saints, that in your Father's house we may come to the place you have prepared for us.

We pray for those who have passed away specifically for Betty Bland and Freda Eyre'

Lord in your mercy  
**All** hear our prayer

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new, and so we thank you for this coming New Year, for the potential it holds. Move us every morning throughout 2021 to look forward to the future with hope and to give you thanks for the wonders of your creation and the wonderful gifts that you have given us.

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

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**All** 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.  
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.

*Hymn 4: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZhgbp97y7Q>

## Going out to serve God

### *A blessing for Christmas*

May God the Father keep you in all your days.  
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.  
May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.  
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you  
and pour upon you blessing and light.

**All Amen.**

Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Christmas Music: St. George's Chapel Choir sing Carol of The Bells at Windsor*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FydDhuAYcOI>

*A service from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002. Closing prayer Ray Simpson, painting by kind permission of Jen Norton, photo David Thorpe.*

### **Notices**

1. These **Online Services** will continue for those wanting to continue worshipping at home.

(To view this service playlist, click below, come back to this sheet for the sermon and the prayers for today)

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACwqhPJvOGeENk\\_gbbisbrif4](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACwqhPJvOGeENk_gbbisbrif4)

## **Notices from Revd Steven**

### **No Zoom Service today**

I am going to take the 2 weeks off after Christmas with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January and I'll be back on the 13<sup>th</sup> January. The Church Wardens and I are meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the services for January and will be in touch after with you after the meeting. Revd Steven

## **Other online Christmas broadcasts over Christmas**

- 27 December, 8.10am - Sunday Worship from Canterbury Cathedral with the Archbishop of Canterbury, BBC Radio 4
- 27 December, 9am - Church of England service with the Church Army and featuring Bishop Guli ([watch online](#))
- 27 December, 10.30am - Chelmsford Cathedral online service, [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#)
- 3 January, 9am - Church of England Epiphany service with Embrace the Middle East ([watch online](#))
- 3 January 10.30am - Chelmsford Cathedral Eucharist [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#)

## **Pastoral Care Course**

If anyone is interested in joining a course on pastoral care, an online 10 week course via zoom, will begin in January. Please contact Revd Steven if you are interested.

## **New Worship Leaders Course**

The Revd Asa Humphreys at Heybridge and Langford is looking to run a 6 week course over zoom starting in January, for those who are interested in leading worship services. If you are interested in this, please let Revd Steven know.

## **Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 31 and 32 / Time: Wednesday 13 January, 2021 07:30 PM London**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 33 and 34

Time: Jan 13, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73744651105?pwd=bTBjTzhxekVEOVNNYzZYRHFDt243QT09>

Meeting ID: 737 4465 1105

Passcode: UhG1k9