



# St EDWARD

## KING & MARTYR

24 December 2020 / Christmas Eve, 10:30pm

### **Welcome to St. Edward's!**

*We hope you are blessed by your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again. There is an Induction Loop in the Nave for those using a hearing aid and wheelchair access available at the West door. The toilet is available in the vestry, with an additional parent and child area for those with infants and toddlers if needed. Children are always welcome in service and will find books and activities in the back of the church.*

## Welcome and Greeting

**Hymn 41** – It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (*We stand to sing*)

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

The light shines in the darkness. **And the darkness has never put it out.**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Confession** (*Please sit or kneel*)

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. 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.**

**The Collect**

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.

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

We sing Hymn 484 - Long Ago Prophets New

### **New Testament Lesson** (Acts 13: 16-26)

16 So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. 19 After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance 20 for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. 21 Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. 22 When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." 23 Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; 24 before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet." 26 'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

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

**From Psalm 89** *(Please remain seated as the psalm is sung)*

- 2 I will declare that your love is established for ever;  
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful  
people: 'I have set a youth above the mighty;  
I have raised a young man over the people.
- 20 'I have found David my servant;  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 'My hand shall hold him fast  
and my arm shall strengthen him.
- 22 'No enemy shall deceive him,  
nor any wicked person afflict him.
- 23 'I will strike down his foes before his face  
and beat down those that hate him.
- 24 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his head be exalted.
- 25 'I will set his dominion upon the sea  
and his right hand upon the rivers.
- 26 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father,  
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"
- 27 'And I will make him my firstborn,  
the most high above the kings of the earth.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it  
was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Gospel**

*At the beginning of the reading, we stand and respond:*

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 1: 67-79). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 68 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them 69 He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

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

**Sermon** 'The Benedictus' -Matthias Grebe

**Affirmation of Faith** (*We stand to declare our faith together*)

**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, Who created all things:

**For by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son who was slain:

**For with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession** *(Please sit or kneel for our intercessions)*

*(Intercessor says)* Lord, in your mercy

*(We respond)* **Hear our prayer.**

*(at the end we pray together)* **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **The Peace** *(We stand to share 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.*

### **Hymn 40** – O Little Town of Bethlehem

*(During the hymn the collection will be taken)*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

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 indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly king, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us as man, he revealed the radiance of your glory and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his

mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St. Edward and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** *(Please sit or kneel)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 forever. Amen.**

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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

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.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*(All who regularly receive communion in their church are welcome to receive here. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, with their hands downwards on the altar rail. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please raise one finger at the altar rail.)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn 34** - O Come All Ye Faithful *(We stand to sing)*

## **Notices**

## **Blessing**

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 peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

*(Please stay for coffee & refreshments just after the service,  
in the left hand chapel at the front of the church)*

## Notices

### Upcoming Services:

**Christmas Day** 10am Holy Communion

**Sunday 27 December** 11am Holy Communion

Please note there will *not* be a 10:30am BCP Eucharist on Friday 1 January. This service will resume the following week on January 8th.

**Parish Giving Update** – We are grateful for all of your gifts!  
Offerings may be given during the services or for Standing Orders,  
via BACS [**SORT: 20-17-19 / ACCT #: 30851477 - "St Edwards  
Vestry Account"**]

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