

*Guildford Parish Church  
of St. Nicolas*



*Midnight Mass*  
*2023*



## The Gathering

*Please stand for the Procession of the Sanctuary party to the Crib during the first HYMN 34*

Rector ✕ In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Rector Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.  
Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

All **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

Rector From eternity to eternity you are God,  
All and now we see you as a newborn child.

### Blessing of the Crib & Christmas Candle

Rector 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.

*The crib is blessed with holy water and censed.*

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 and Christmas candle which we have prepared  
to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see them be  
strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to  
bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

All **Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Rector May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
✠ and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The ministers move from the crib to the altar*

## Gloria in Excelsis

*All*           **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your 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;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
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 Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

*Rector*       **Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.**

**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.**

*All*           **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

¶ Please **SIT** for a reading from the OLD TESTAMENT

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A reading from the NEW TESTAMENT

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

¶ Please **STAND** *Gradual Hymn 29*

Gospeller Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia alleluia, alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint ...

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel:*

Gospeller This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

¶ Please **SIT**

The Sermon

## ¶ Please STAND

## The Nicene 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,  
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.

## Prayers of Intercession

Reader In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour  
was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.  
Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.  
Protect with your love those who have no home  
and all who live in poverty.  
Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,  
brought your Son to birth.  
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.  
Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining  
in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness  
of our world.  
Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people  
on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice  
in all the world.  
Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**



In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings  
of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's  
redemption.

*All* Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,  
and saw the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

*All* Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,  
and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death  
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

*All* Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate  
Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

*All* Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

Deacon Father,  
*in this holy night* angels and shepherds worshipped at  
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,  
Joseph and the saints  
through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **hear our prayer.**

## ¶ Please **STAND**

Rector Aided by the prayers of the Blessed Virgin on whose constant intercession we rely, we join our prayers with hers and all the Saints and Angels as we say:

*All* 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.  
Amen.

## The Peace

Rector This holy night the angels sang,  
'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

*All* and also with you.

## Preparation of the Altar

### ¶ *The Offertory Hymn 28*

## ¶ Please remain **STANDING**

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

*All* 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 holy Church.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest     The Lord is here  
All         **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Priest     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All         **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Priest*     All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
              mighty creator, ever-living God.  
              We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
              our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
              who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
              and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary  
              by the power of your Spirit,  
              and lived as one of us.  
              In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
              you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
              to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
              In him we see our God made visible  
              and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
              Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
              we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
              and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Choir*     *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.*

## ¶ Please SIT or KNEEL

Priest 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.

All 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 Our Lady, Nicolas, George,  
Catherine, Benedict 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.

*All*      **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

***All***      **Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them 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.**

## **The Fracture**

Priest      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.

## Communion

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are you who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

## Post Communion Hymn

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born.*

*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.*

## Prayer after Communion

Priest 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.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

All 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.

## The Procession and Welcome Of the Bambino

*Please stand for the Processional hymn 30 verses 1-2 and 5-6-7  
The Bambino is processed and placed in the Crib.  
The crib is censed.*

O God the Son, highest and holiest,  
who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death:  
bring us with the shepherds and the wise men  
to kneel before your holy cradle,  
that we may come to sing with your angels  
your glorious praises in heaven;  
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,  
God, world without end.

*All*      **Amen.**

## The Blessing & Dismissal

*Priest*      May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.  
May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.  
May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*      **Amen.**

*Deacon*      The Mass is ended. Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
*All*      **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*Voluntary: Noel in g major: When at Christmas He was born  
Louis Claude Daquin*

# WHAT'S ON AT ST NICOLAS'

## TUESDAY GROUP

10:00 – 11:00 A friendly social group which meets for interesting  
(term time) and varied activities

## CAFÉ PLAY

Wednesday Toddler morning for children and their grown ups.  
10:00 – 11:30  
(term time)

## COFFEE SHOP

Friday Coffee and company in the hall  
10:30 – 12:30

Monthly Lunch on the last Friday of the month  
(until 13:30)

## Monthly

### Beer & Banter

A men's group for those interested in exploring faith and company

### Curry & Questions

A chance to explore questions of faith, politics, ethics over curry!

## Sundays

### 08:30 Holy Communion

The quiet, said, traditional one

### 10:00 Sung Mass

The glorious choir, ritual and bells and smells with Junior Church during term time

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