

St James Malden

Midnight Mass 2020



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.

The Service begins in darkness and candlelight - with the baby Jesus processed through the church to the crib.

The Greeting

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

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. *All Amen.*

Prayers of Penitence

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.

Silence is kept.

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.

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.

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

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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 Collect

Eternal God,

In the stillness of this night

You sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the
light of salvation:

Give to the earth the peace that we long for

And fill our hearts with the joy of heaven

Through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please blow your candles out



Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ 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 onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

Today Christ is born:

All alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:

All alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:

All alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, ^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ ^[c]

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

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,
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



In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on 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 those who are in pain or distress tonight.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort and hope 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 New Malden, in London and 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.

Holy God

All **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.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night heaven is come down to earth,

and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have died this year and all those we love
who have passed through death

in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

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

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

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Father,

On 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 Amen.*

The Peace

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
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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 to give you thanks and praise,

Almighty God and Everlasting Father,

Through Jesus Christ your Son.

And now we give you thanks

because, in the incarnation of the Word,

a new light has dawned upon the world;

you have become one with us

that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.

We break the bread of life,

and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,**

light in the midst of us,

bring us to light and life.

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion to say at home

Thanks be you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. O Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother – may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day. Amen.



Prayer after Communion

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.

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people *say/shout*:

Amen!

Angels dance

and the bright star shines.

All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.

All God's people *say/shout*:

Amen!

One with us,

yet born to save,

he will show us the way to God.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.

All God's people *say/shout*:

Amen!



The Dismissal Gospel (please stand)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Blessing

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

All Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,

by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,

give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.



Thank you for being with us today – we pray you have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

The church is closed for the holidays from Boxing Day until the 2nd of January. In an emergency please call

Mother Katie is on annual leave until 9th of January. In an emergency please contact the Head of our Pastoral Care, Serena, on 07999 395736

All recordings of Evensong and sermons – as well as the latest news – can be found on our website and Facebook page

<https://stjamesmalden.org/>

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