

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL DUNDEE



## Midnight Mass



Christmas Eve 2006

## **Midnight Mass**

WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The Order of Service for Midnight Mass is contained in this booklet.

You are invited to join in saying the words in bold type.

Directions for standing/sitting/kneeling are given,  
but please feel free to do what is most comfortable for you.

All are invited to receive communion at this service.

If you use a hearing aid,  
switch it to the "T" position for direct access to the sound system.

Please take with you our warmest wishes for a very Happy Christmas  
and, if you are able, please join us for any of the other Christmas services  
or at any time for our Sunday or weekday services.

### Christmas Services

<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.00am	Christmas Eucharist
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	11.00am	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	11.00am	Sung Eucharist for Epiphany

# The Gathering

## INTRODUCTION

The night is dark;  
Outside the city moves with the sounds of the season.  
Listen!  
A baby cries while all hold their breath,  
waiting, expecting, hoping, longing.  
Come, meet the God who cares for us.  
Hear the story,  
sing glad songs  
and know the wonder of God among us!



## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

*text: Phillips Brooks*

*stand*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth  
and praises sing to God the King,  
goodwill and peace on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

## **GREETING**

*remain standing*

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAAYER OF CONFESSION**

From all corners we come, O God:  
from lives where everything seems to go to plan,  
from the humdrum of the ordinary and what is expected,  
from impossible places where nothing goes right,  
from lives lived in quiet despair.

Longing for space in the mad frenzy of the season;  
yearning to make sense of it all;  
trying to connect with all that is important.

Meet us again, O God, in the cry of a new-born baby  
who altered the course of human history.

**Search out all that makes us who we are:  
and transform us with your healing love.**

We know there are times we have not lived as we should have;  
but your love has pulled us back to you.

**Forgive us, heal us, melt our hearts,  
so that we can see Christ among us.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Good news!  
God never turns away from us.  
In the name of God our Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer –  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit –  
the past is gone and all is made new.  
**Amen.**

Glory be to God in heaven,  
peace, goodwill to all on earth.  
This, the angels song, we sing now  
evermore with joy and mirth:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*



**COLLECT**

**God of glory,  
your splendour shines from a manger in Bethlehem,  
where the Light of the world is humbly born  
into the darkness of human night.  
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,  
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,  
And defenders of all for whom there is no room.  
Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES — *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. 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. 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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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.

### PSALM 96

*remain seated*

*text & music: © 1963, Bernadette Farrell*

*Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by ALL; verses sung by choir.*

Sing a new song to the Lord.  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name!

Proclaim his help day by day.  
Tell among the nations his glory.  
Tell of his works, tell of his works,  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise.  
All of the land, all that it bears:  
rejoice at the presence of the Lord.

## READING

text: © WGRG, Iona Community

### *Mary, pondering*

What is this seed which God has planted,  
unasked, uncompromised, unseen?  
Unknown to everyone but angels  
this gift has been.

And who am I to be the mother,  
to give my womb at heaven's behest,  
to let my body be the hospice  
and God the guest?

Oh, what a risk in such a nation,  
in such a place, at such a time,  
to come to people in transition  
and yet in prime.

What if the baby I embody  
should enter life deformed or strange,  
unable to be known as normal,  
to thrive or change?

What if the world, for spite, ignores him,  
and friends keep back and parents scorn,  
and every fear of every woman  
in me is born?

Still, I will want and love and hold him,  
his cry attend, his smile applaud.  
I'll mother him as any mortal,  
and just like God.



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

stand

music: from *Piae Cantiones*

*Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by ALL.*

*We turn to face the Gospel book as it moves to the centre of the congregation.*

choir: Unto us is born a Saviour.  
Word made flesh on earth to dwell. Alleluia, alleluia.

ALL: **Alleluia...**

### **GOSPEL** — *Luke 2: 1 – 14*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke,  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**SERMON** — *The Rev'd John L Bell (Iona Community)*

*sit*

**SILENCE** — *for a moment of reflection*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*sit/kneel*



**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*stand*

Into darkness  
light has shone,  
love has grown and  
hope has come.

The peace and love of Christ be with you this Christmas night.  
**And also with you.**

We are met in Christ's name:  
**Let us share his peace.**



*Please feel free to move around the Cathedral  
to exchange a sign of Peace and Christmas greetings.*

*Please extinguish your candle at this point.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### OFFERTORY CAROL

*remain standing*

*text: Adeste fideles - anonymous Latin*

*During this carol a collection is taken;  
the collection and the bread & wine are then taken to the Altar.*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:  
O come.....

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps  
O come.....

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest:'  
O come.....

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come.....

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

*remain standing*

**Beloved God,  
as we celebrate the gift of the Christ-Child this night,  
accept all we offer at this joyful feast.  
Amen.**



## **EUCCHARISTIC 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is the joy of this night, O God, our salvation and hope,  
to give you thanks and praise.

In the beginning you said 'Let there be light,' and there was light;  
light that shone in the darkness and brought forth life.

You sent your Son, born as a human babe,  
bringing fresh hope and new life to your world.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

Therefore, with angel choirs, with shepherds and wise travellers,  
with all God's people on earth and in heaven,  
we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

*music: from Piaae Cantiones*

O God, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you.  
You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.  
He healed those who were sick,  
cared for those who were poor,  
and cried with those who were sad.  
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died,  
while he was having supper with his friends,  
he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
'Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:  
'Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**So, as we do what he told us,  
we open our hearts to him;  
we remember how he died and rose again  
to live now in us.**

**Together with him we offer you these gifts:  
in them we give you ourselves.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us  
and on this bread and this wine,  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,  
and that, sharing your life,  
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

**With all your people  
we give you thanks and praise  
through the Son and in the Spirit,  
now and for ever.**



### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*sit/kneel*

As our Saviour has 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.  
Do not bring us to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

*ALL sing words in bold*

*music: Marty Haugen; ©2000/1 GIA Publications*

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

## INVITATION

Come all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.  
Come, for all is now ready.



## COMMUNION

*Please come forward to the front of the Nave for Communion  
— ALL are invited to receive —*

*(If you would rather receive a Communion blessing, please come forward with your hands clasped.)*

*At the giving of the bread:*  
The Bread of Life, broken for you.  
**Amen.**

*At the giving of the cup:*  
The Cup of blessing, poured out for you.  
**Amen.**

**CAROL** — *sung by choir*

*text: Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr'': Craig Kingsbury*

Gaudete, gaudete,  
Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine.  
Gaudete.

Rejoice, rejoice,  
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.  
Rejoice!

Tempus ad est gratiae  
hoc quod optabamus,  
carmina laetitiae  
devote redamus.

*It is now the time of grace  
that we have desired;  
let us sing songs of joy,  
let us give devotion.*

Deus homo factus est,  
natura mirante.  
Mundus renovatus est  
a Christo regnante.

*God is made man,  
and nature marvels:  
the world is renewed  
by Christ the King.*

Ezechielis porta  
clausa pertransitur,  
unde lux est orta  
salus invenitur.

*The closed gate of Ezekiel,  
has been passed through;  
from where the light rises  
salvation is found.*

Ergo nostra cantio  
psallat jam in lustro.  
Benedicat Domino,  
salus reginostro.

*Therefore let our assembly now sing,  
sing psalms to purify us;  
let it praise the Lord:  
greetings to our King.*



**CAROL** — sung by ALL

*text: Joseph Mohr, transl'n: Stopford Augustus Brooke*

Silent night, holy night!  
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the child beloved and fair  
sleeping in heavenly rest;  
sleeping in heavenly rest.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near, the angel-song:  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from thy face!  
strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since thou art born!  
Saviour, since thou art born!

**CAROL** — sung by choir

*text: from Gude and Godlie Ballatis; music: Scottish trad.*

*sit*

Nou lat us sing with joy and mirth  
in honour of our Lordis birth,  
for his lufe and humanitie  
wha gave himsell for us to die.

When he wes borne nane did him snib  
to lie rycht law intill ane crib.  
Ane ox, ane ass rycht tenderlie  
refreshit his humanitie.

The Angels sang with mirryness  
unto the Hyrdis mair and less  
and bade thame of good confort be  
for Christis new Nativitie.

For ye war all at Goddis horn;  
this Babe, to you that now is born  
sall mak you safe and for you die  
and you restore to libertie.

*snib – hinder; law – low; hyrdis – shepherds; war – were;  
at Goddis horn – 'put to the horn': outlawed by God*

# Thanksgiving and Sending Out

## SENTENCE

Blessed are you, O Christmas Christ,  
that your cradle was so low  
that shepherds,  
poorest and simplest of earthly folk,  
could kneel beside it,  
and look level-eyed into the face of God.

## PRAYER

*sit/kneel*

**We thank you, loving God,  
for giving yourself to the world  
not in the powerful and extraordinary  
but in weakness and the familiar:  
in a baby;  
in bread and wine.**

**We thank you  
for bringing us to Bethlehem,  
House of Bread,  
where the empty are filled,  
and the filled are emptied;  
where the poor find riches,  
and the rich recognise their poverty;  
where all who kneel and hold out their hands  
are unstintingly fed.  
Amen.**

## BLESSING

Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads you.  
Listen, as the Child of Peace cries to you.  
Rejoice as the Love of God embraces you.  
And go now, with Hope, Peace and Love in your hearts  
and the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
for ever with you.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace to shine the light of God's love in all the world!  
**In the name of Christ.  
Amen!**

## RECESSIONAL CAROL

stand

text: Charles Wesley, George Whitfield, Martin Madan

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.

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 with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.

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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.



*Please feel free to take this booklet away with you.*