

Service for the Sunday after Christmas



St Laurence Church, Downton

27 December 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: Brightest and best *(St Martin's Voices)*

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-18269)

Gathering:

O come let us worship and lift our hearts..
Not because the world is good and last week was awesome,
but because the earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the God of the whole Earth.

O come let us worship and raise our hands..
Not because our lives are all sweetness and light,
But because even those who walk in darkness
can see a great light,
the Bright and Morning Star.

O come let us worship and bow down..
Not because God gives us what we want,
But because God gives us what we need –
the holy child Jesus, God's Unspeakable Gift.

Leonard Sweet

Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples!

For great is his steadfast love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117

Prayer:

Open our hearts, merciful God,
to the sparks of your presence still in this world.

Open our eyes,
that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places,
and among the least likely of people.

**God with us,
kindle your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
we might banish the shadows of this world,
we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:
Emmanuel is in this world,
God is with us, now and evermore.**

Light up our hearts, gracious God,
that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us.

Amen.

Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 John 1

John 21:19-end

After each reading:

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

Reflection

Music: Coventry carol
(*St Martin's Voices*)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Conclusion

The Collect

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ,

your incarnate Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

God give you grace to proclaim his Word in our midst
and to share the inheritance of his saints in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!