



*MIDNIGHT
MASS*

*ST COLLEN'S
CHURCH*

Welcome to St Collen's Church for our Christmas Celebrations!

Tonight, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we gather for one of the most significant and poignant celebrations of the Eucharist in the Christian year. At this deepest midnight, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

ABOUT THE LLANGOLLEN GROUP OF CHURCHES

We belong to a group of three churches in and around Llangollen. Llangollen gets its name from the seventh century monk, Collen, who is the patron saint of our church and town. Around the twelfth century, St Collen's church was very important centre as it was the Mother Church for a much wider area. The core of Llangollen lies in the church and grounds of St Collen's. It is here that St Collen built his hermitage and church which would have been surrounded by a wall known as "Llan" or "enclosure". So, the name Llangollen means 'The Church (or enclosure) of Collen.' In the early 1700's the original bricks from his cell were taken and built into the tower of St Collen's and it is believed that the remains of the saint were laid to rest in the vault beneath the church. There is a statue of St. Collen in the south aisle.

To find out more about us and our regular patterns of worship and events, please visit our website and social media.

We are grateful to Owen Roberts (organist) and to Tom Parry for playing the harp for us this evening.

We wish you a blessed and happy Christmas.

Nadolig Llawen!

*The congregation **stands** to sing the Opening Carol*

The figure of the baby Jesus is carried in procession and placed in the crib.

**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**

**For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth**

*The hymn pauses for **The Blessing of the Crib***

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**

The hymn continues

**How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His 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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

The priest says

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Prayers of Penitence

Sit or Kneel

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our failings.

A period of silence is kept for self examination

Heavenly Father,
**we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.
We are sorry and truly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us in his way
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The Kyrie Eleison is sung

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The priest says

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.

All **Amen.**

Stand

The Gloria in excelsis is sung

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.**

[Chorus]

***Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

The Collect

The priest sings

Let us pray

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.

All **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Sit

First Reading

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Carol

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King" –
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring; –
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years
Shall come the age of gold;
When Peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.**

All turn to face the Book of the Gospels and sing

All **Alleluia**

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

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

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!'

Luke 2: 1-14

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

Sit

Sermon

Father Lee Taylor

Stand

The Creed

All

**We believe and trust
in God the Father
who made the world.**

**We believe and trust
in his Son, Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust
in the Holy Spirit who gives life
to the people of God. Amen**

The Intercession

Let us pray

Sit or Kneel

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Saviour,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Saviour,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Saviour,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Saviour,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,

All hear our prayer.

**All Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

Stand

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A **Carol** is sung during which the altar is prepared. A collection is taken. Visitors are asked to use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes for their offering towards the work of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the details on the envelope to enable us to claim back the tax as Gift Aid.*

**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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, Light of light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created,
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.**

**Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ child,
Bring our hearts' oblations.
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest!'
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord**

The Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our 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, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ your
only 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 singing:

All **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.**

Hear us, heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Through him accept our sacrifice of praise,
and grant that, by the power of your Spirit,
these gifts of bread and wine may be for 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 from this, all of you;
for 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come in glory.

Therefore, Father,
remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son
we offer to you in thanksgiving this bread and this cup,
your gifts to us, and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us who share this bread and this cup.
Strengthen our faith, make us one and welcome us and all your people
into the glorious kingdom of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour
and glory are yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All sing **Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or other suitable words

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

All **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.**

The Communion

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sung.

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those 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.**

Communicant members of all denominations are welcome to receive Communion at this service. If you do not wish to receive Communion but would like a blessing, please bring the service booklet with you as a signal to the priest.

**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.**

**Sanctaidd nos gyda'i ser;
Mantell fwyn, cariad per
Mintai'r bugail yn dod i fwynhau
Baban Duw gyda'r llygaid bach cau,
Iesu T'wysog ein heddd.
Iesu T'wysog ein heddd.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
All **his love is everlasting,**

Generous God,
All **you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.**

The priest says

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

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.
All **Amen**

The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The final carol is sung

**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 th' 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, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with man 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 Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King"**

KEEP IN TOUCH



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