



the **Church**
of **St Peter** and
St Simon-the-Apostle
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Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019

Holy Communion and Carols with the Christmas Story at 5 pm.

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Clergy - The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine & The Reverend Michael Perry
Church School Co-ordinator – Ms Sileen Phillips
Director of Music - Mr Robin Savis

Merry Christmas and welcome to the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle.

The Gathering of the Community

Please stand.

Hymn 118 *O Come all ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

The Greeting

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;
All **And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Celebrant The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
All **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
All **And also with you.**

The Collect

Celebrant Holy Jesus, to deliver us from the power of darkness you humbled yourself to be born among us and laid in a manger. Let the light of your love shine in our hearts, and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty, for you are now alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Christmas Story: “The Friendly Beasts”

The Prayers *Please kneel or stand.*

Leader Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.
In your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Christ who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees. In your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are hungry. In your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, give strength to all who suffer.
In your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Christ, who lived and died to save us, give us your mercy and forgiveness.
In your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Please stand.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We invite you to share a sign of peace with those near you – a handshake, slight bow or other form of greeting. Please respect those who wish not to shake hands.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Hymn 136 *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks*

WINCHESTER NEW

Prayer over the Gifts & Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant God of peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you. May all we offer you today renew us as members of your household. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing

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.

Celebrant We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,

that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer – *Said by all.*

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant 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.**

Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Please do not dip the consecrated bread into the wine - Drinking from the chalice is considered safe from the point of view of public health. You are also welcome to receive only the bread, if you prefer. Indicate this by holding your arms crossed over your chest as the chalice passes; this is also a way to receive a blessing rather than communion.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available – please let the administering priest know.

Hymn 137 *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

Hymn 154 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

Prayer after Communion & Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Dismissal

Priest Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!**

Hymn 138 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN