

*For announcements and up-coming events,  
see the separate take-home leaflet.*



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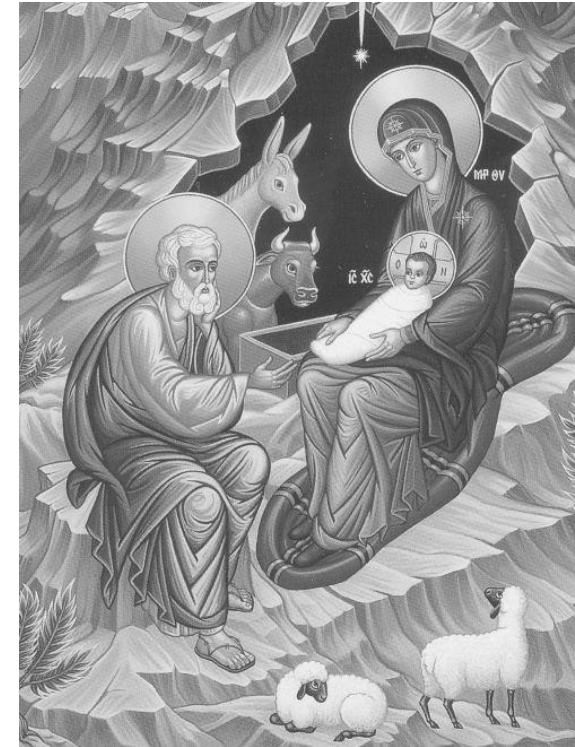
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## Church of the Most Holy Martyr **Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields**



**Feast of the Nativity: Christmas Eve**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**SUNG MASS AT 9:00 pm**

**I bring you good news of a great joy  
which will come to all the people;  
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.**  
*Luke 2.10-11*

## Organ Prelude

Entrance (*Please stand while the sanctuary party enters*).

*The service begins on page 185 of the Book of Alternative Services (BAS).*

*Hymns and service music are found in the blue Common Praise hymnal.*

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Priest:* Jesus Christ, the Light of the world:  
no darkness can quench this light; no night shall cover it.

*All:* **Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

**Hymn 123:** *Once in royal David's city*

IRBY

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with be with you all.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Almighty God,

*All:* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Gloria** (*Common Praise 686*)

*Hurd*

## Collect of the Day

*Priest:* Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Dismissal

*Priest:* Go forth in peace, to love and serve the Lord

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Welcome to everyone here today!*

## Intercessions List

A list is available each Sunday on the small table at the entrance.

Please feel free to add your own petitions,  
and the names of those you would like prayed for during Mass.

## Prayers have been asked today for:

Phyllis; Vanesta; Marcelle; Becky; Mark; Jermaine; Alex; Tejah; Chris; Damien;  
Tannis; Cyrlene & Harmon; Beck; Kevin; Neville; Lovina; Michael; Chris; Gladston;  
Curtis; Nancy; Zachary; Barbara

### Prayer after Communion

*Priest:* Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven  
in sending your Son to take our human nature.  
May we who have tasted heavenly things  
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

### Doxology

*Priest:* 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.**

**Closing hymn 138:** *Hark! the herald angels sing* (verses 1&2)

MENDELSSOHN

### Blessing of the Christmas Crèche

*Priest:* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

*All:* **And we beheld his glory**

*Priest:* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

*All:* **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

*Priest:* Father, bless this crèche and keep before our eyes this Christmas  
the image of your eternal Son,  
let this crib recall that Jesus is one with you as God,  
and yet came to be one with us as the child laid in the manger.  
Let his mind be in us, and let our hearts be lifted up  
to contemplate the glory that is your divine humanity.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

### Blessing

*Priest:* May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin  
and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing hymn 138:** *Hark! the herald angels sing* (verse 3)

### Liturgy of the Word

*A period of silence is observed after each reading and the homily.*

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 52.7-10

**Psalm 98:** *Cantate Domino*

- 1 SING TO the Lord a new song, /  
**for he has done mar-vel-lous things.**
- 2 **With his right hand and his ho-ly arm /  
has he won for himself the vic-to-ry.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his vic-to-ry; /  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the na-tions.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Is-ra-el, /  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victo-ry of our G<sup>ö</sup>d.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; /  
lift up your voice, re-joyce, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, /  
with the harp and the voice of söng.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn /  
shout with joy before the King, the Lörd.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, /  
the lands and those who dwell there-in.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, /  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world /  
and the peo-ples with e-qui-ty.**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1.1-12

**Gradual hymn 132:** *Of eternal Love begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*(Please stand, as able)*

*Gospeller:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*All:* Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Holy Gospel:** John 1.1-14

*Gospeller:* The Gospel of Christ.

*All:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily:** Mtr Maggie Helwig (*Please be seated*)

**Nicene Creed** (*Please stand, as able*)

**Intercessions**

(*Names and prayers may be added to the list at the entrance*)

*In the case of prayers for the departed:*

*Leader:* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

*All:* **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Leader:* May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

*Priest:* *Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,  
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.  
Most merciful God,*

*All:* **we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Priest:* *Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
† pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*All:* **Amen.**

**Peace**

*Priest:* *The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

*All:* **And also with you.**

BAS, p. 188

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Offertory hymn 121:** *O little town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

**Prayer over the Gifts**

*Priest:* Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast.  
May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;  
for he is Lord now and for ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer 3**

BAS, p. 198

*Priest:* *The Lord be with you.*

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* *Lift up your hearts.*

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest:* *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Proper Preface:** *Preface of Christmas*

BAS p. 219

**Sanctus** (*Common Praise 735*)

*Schubert*

**Lord's Prayer** (*BAS p. 918*)

*McNeil Robinson*

**Breaking of the Bread**

*Priest:* 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.**

**Agnus Dei** (*Common Praise 747*)

*Schubert*

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive communion.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion,  
please cross your arms over your chest when the communion ministers approach.  
Feel free either to stand or to kneel – we ask that you not lean on the rail.*

**Communion hymn 119:** *Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

*Please stand, as able, for the prayer after communion.*