

St Saviour's Church

Crib Service and First Mass of Christmas

WELCOME:

At last, Christmas has come. Our waiting during the season of Advent is over and now we can celebrate God's presence with us in a new way - as Emmanuel, God is with us. This evening we celebrate and recreate that first Christmas when the world was invited to become part of God's family. We remember that Jesus is our brother, our friend, our Saviour and our God. As members of God's family here in St Saviour's we are delighted to welcome everyone to join in with our celebration and this high point of our lives as a community of faith.

COLLECT:

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm Response: 'Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord'

Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 96; Matthew 1:18-25

GATHERING:

Once in royal Davids city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth
from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean,
and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles,
like us He knew;
And He cares when we are sad,

And he shares when we are glad.
And our eyes at last
shall see Him,
Through His own
redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

CREATING THE CRIB:

Girls and boys, leave your toys,
make no noise,
Kneel at his crib
and worship him.
For this shrine, child divine,
is the sign, our Saviour's here.

*Alleluia the church bells ring,
Alleluia the Angels sing,
Alleluia from everything
all must draw near.*

On that day, far away, Jesus lay,
Angels were watching
round his head.
Holy child, Mother mild,
undefiled, we sing your praise.

*Alleluia the church bells ring,
Alleluia the Angels sing,
Alleluia from everything all must
draw near.*

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Away in a manger,  
No crib for his bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing  
The poor baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying he makes

I love thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side,  
'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
And love me I pray

Bless all the dear children  
In thy tender care  
And take us to heaven  
To live with thee there

## OFFERTORY:

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  
And Peace to men 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 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

## COMMUNION:

Child in a manger born,  
lies in a cattle stall  
Safely he's sleeping,  
Mary is keeping  
Close beside her baby so small.

Angels watch over him,  
softly their praises sing.  
Voices ascending,  
joy never-ending  
Glory be to Jesus the king.

*And God in the heavens above,  
Looks down with a heart full of  
love.*

Leaving their flocks behind,  
Shepherds have come to find,  
Jesus the Saviour,  
Lords of the ages  
Here within the stable tonight.

### Chorus

Wise men from far and wide, kneel  
at the baby's side,  
Gazing in wonder,  
praising the son who  
Came to Earth  
to lay down his life.

### Chorus

Child in a manger born,  
I want to know you more,  
Know you are near me,  
love you more dearly  
Jesus, my Lord.

## FINAL HYMN:

On Christmas night  
all Christians sing  
to hear the news

the angels bring;  
on Christmas night  
all Christians sing  
to hear the news  
the angels bring:  
news of great joy,  
news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we  
on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer  
made us glad?  
Then why should we  
on earth be sad,  
since our Redeemer  
made us glad,  
when from our sin He set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs  
before His grace,  
then life and health  
come in its place;  
when sin departs  
before His grace,  
then life and health c  
ome in its place;  
angels and men  
with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels  
sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels  
sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
now and forevermore. Amen."

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

**Midnight Mass** - tonight at 11pm  
in St German's.

**Christmas Morning** - 9:30 am in  
St Saviour's

**Octave of Christmas:** Weekday  
services as normal in St Saviour's  
only.