



**Chet Valley Churches**



**Holy Communion**  
**St John, Apostle & Evangelist**  
**27<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,  
**And also with you.**

Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us true faith,  
certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that we may  
carry out Your holy and true command. *(Based on a prayer of St Francis of Assisi)*

## ♪ Hymn: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Praise with us the God of grace.**



## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom 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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came in humility to share our lives:  
forgive our pride before others.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came with good news for all people:  
forgive our silence in the face of evil and sin.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You came in love to a world of suffering:  
forgive our self-centredness and lack of vision.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Collect**

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life through the birth  
of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Epistle: 1 John 1:1-10**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

For the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## 🎵 **Hymn: Light of the World, You Stepped Down Into Darkness**

**Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”**

**Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that makes this heart adore you;  
Hope of a life spent with you.**

**Here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that  
You’re my God.  
You’re altogether lovely,  
Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.**

**King of all days,  
Oh, so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came  
To the earth you created;  
All for love’s sake became poor.**

**Here I am to worship...**

**I’ll never know  
How much it cost,  
To see my sin  
Upon that cross.**

**Here I am to worship...**

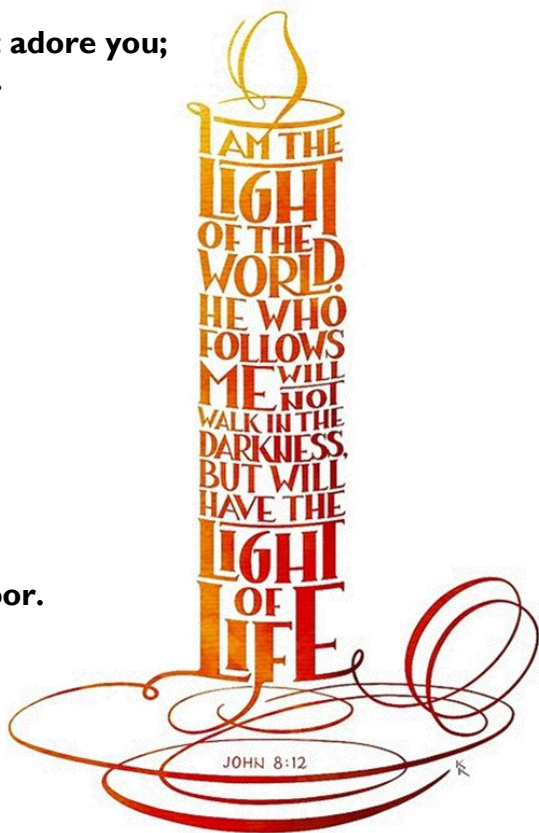
## 📖 **Gospel Reading: John 21:19b-25**

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said to Peter, ‘Follow me.’ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus



at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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

### **Talk [Rev David]**

So Christmas is over. For many the tinsel and trees, the tidying-up after Christmas Day has happened although with tomorrow being a Bank Holiday in lieu of yesterday perhaps not quite yet. But Christmas has only just begun—the season of Advent ceased on Christmas Eve and the Christmas season began on Christmas Day and continues until Candlemas. Ok, the trappings and decorations may well come down on 12<sup>th</sup> Night but the Christmas celebrations should continue until the beginning of February. Christmas isn't over. Neither is the Story.

This year our celebrations may be different to those we have had in the past but even so the hope offered in the One who came as a babe is still the same.

On this the final Sunday of 2020 we might look back at what has occurred and wonder where has God been in all of this. That's the paradox. We often ask where God is when at the same celebrating Christmas, the epitome of God being one with us through the incarnation. I believe that God has been alongside us this year. Yes, there are those who have not survived the virus, there are those whose livelihoods have been shattered, and none of us have been immune to its effect even if what we've suffered might be unfulfilled plans and hopes. Yet here we are two days after Christmas recalling the birth of a babe in Bethlehem. The Word made Flesh.

Whether or not John the apostle and John the evangelist are one and the same the Church honours on this day the one who makes that



proclamation—The Word made Flesh—and who is also ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’. What do we know about him? The Gospel accounts tell us that he was one of the sons of Zebedee, that he and his brother, James, were given the nickname by Jesus in Mark’s gospel of Boanerges, meaning ‘sons of Thunder’ (I do wonder why?). John is an ever present: he is on the mountain of transfiguration, he is at the Last Supper, he is in the Garden of Gethsemane, he is in the temple courtyard and he is at the foot of the Cross. He saw and he shared in Jesus’s ministry—but more than this he was also a visitor to the Tomb and in consequence because of what he experienced he proclaimed.

Our two readings today have been taken from one of John’s letters and from the Gospel given his name. And in them both he makes a resounding declaration. It starts the letter, in the Gospel it brings it to a climactic conclusion. It is so important that as he starts his letter he says a particular phrase, not once but twice: "what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes..." (1Jo1.1 & 3). This isn’t hearsay I’m sharing, John writes, but what I am able to testify because... I was there.

Being somewhere when a momentous international or national or personal event takes place is tremendous. Maybe that is what we have also missed this year. Which makes what we have been able to share all the more precious and given us the determination to do so again.

The apostle John wants—needs—to share his good news because through acknowledging who Jesus is, will ensure that "our joy may be complete". Not just his and those to whom he is writing but to all who are prepared to believe his testimony and act upon it. are we up for that challenge? Perhaps we can start when we take down those Christmas cards by praying for those who sent them or dialling their number to call them. Let’s share the Good News of Jesus; who came that we might have life in all its fullness.

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him a name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the Spirit and union with Christ let us pray to our Heavenly Father:

The magi came from the east to worship your son. Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds today and every day.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The holy family lived in exile and the shadow of death. Father, look in mercy to all who are poor and powerless and all who suffer.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth. Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families, and the communities of which we are a part.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the virgin Mary and St Joseph, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



# **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

## **The Peace**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## **Hymn: Joy to the World**

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

## **Preparation of the Table**

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give 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 and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks, because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to 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 this, all of you; 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.'

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom  
in the words our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **Communion**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

## ♪ Hymn: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

*Go tell it on the mountain...*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Saviour's birth.

*Go tell it on the mountain...*

And lo, when they had seen it,  
They all bowed down and prayed;  
They travelled on together  
To where the babe was laid.

*Go tell it on the mountain...*

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

*Go tell it on the mountain...*

## **The Dismissal**

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you, and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

