

I believe in **Jesus Christ**,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand

of the Father,  
and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the **Holy Spirit**,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will  
receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

### Communion Reflection

Handel: *For unto us a child is born*

### Going out as the people of God

"God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live." (*Laudato Si*)

### Closing Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King".*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King".*

# ORLAGH IN THE CITY



## Second Sunday of Christmas

Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο  
καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν

### Opening Hymn

Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

At his word the worlds were framèd;  
He commanded, it was done:  
Heav'n and earth and depths of ocean,

In their threefold order one;  
All that grows beneath the shining  
Of the moon and burning sun—  
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessèd,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Saviour of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face—  
Evermore and evermore.

### Gloria

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavn'ly song?  
*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.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

### Opening Prayer

God most high, your only Son embraced the weakness of our flesh to give us the power to become your children; your eternal Word chose to dwell among us, that we might live in your presence.

Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have made our own, and how great the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A reading from the book of Sirach (24:1-2, 8-12)

**W**isdom praises herself  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:  
“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator pitched my tent.  
He said, ‘Encamp in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.’  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.  
In the holy tent I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Zion.  
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,  
and in Jerusalem was my domain.  
I took root in an honoured people;  
in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance.”

### Psalm 147

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command.

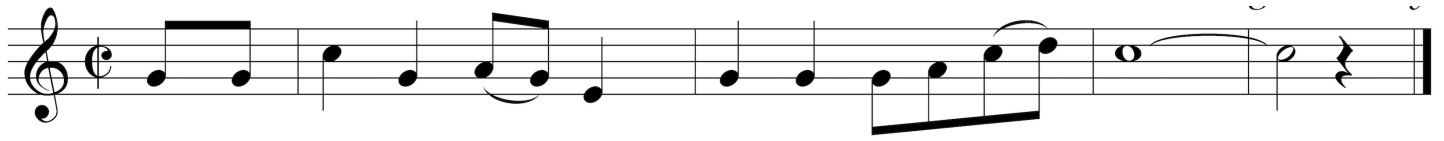
He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees.



### A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (1:3-6)

**B**lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according

to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!\_\_\_\_\_

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.  
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

### The beginning of the holy Gospel according to John (1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")*

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### Quiet prayer | Lectio | Creed | Intercessions

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.