

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities



Sunday 27 December 2020
1st Sunday of Christmas

With Rev DAVID PAYNE

Recorded at
St James the Great, Silsoe
&
St James the Apostle, Pulloxhill

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayers

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks.

Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To comfort the lonely
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among the people
To make music in the heart.

Heavenly Father,
whose Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: Christians, awake!

1 Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings were begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's son.

2 Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th'angelic herald's voice: "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

3 He spake, and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heav'n's whole orb with alleluias rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace on the earth, and unto men good will.

5 Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!
Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross.
Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till our imperfect state God doth replace.

Prayers of Confession

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading: Luke 2 v15-21

Read by Linda Brown

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

After the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Come we must go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the
Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with all speed and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying
in the manger. When they saw him, they recounted what they had been told about this child, and
all who heard were astonished at what the shepherds said. But Mary treasured up all these things

4 To Beth'hem straight the happy shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man;
and found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,
her son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
the earliest heralds of the Saviour's name.

6 Then may we hope, th'angelic throngs among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

and pondered over them. Meanwhile the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen, which had all happened as they had been told.

Eight days later, the time came to circumcise him and he was given the name Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Address

Poem - Gerald Kelly - The Gift.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
And 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.**

Final Prayer & Blessing

May the peace of Jesus Christ,
Light of the world
and God with us
abide with you, in your heart
and in your home
at this time of his coming
and remain with you always

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
be yours and remain yours,
at Christmas time and for ever more
Amen