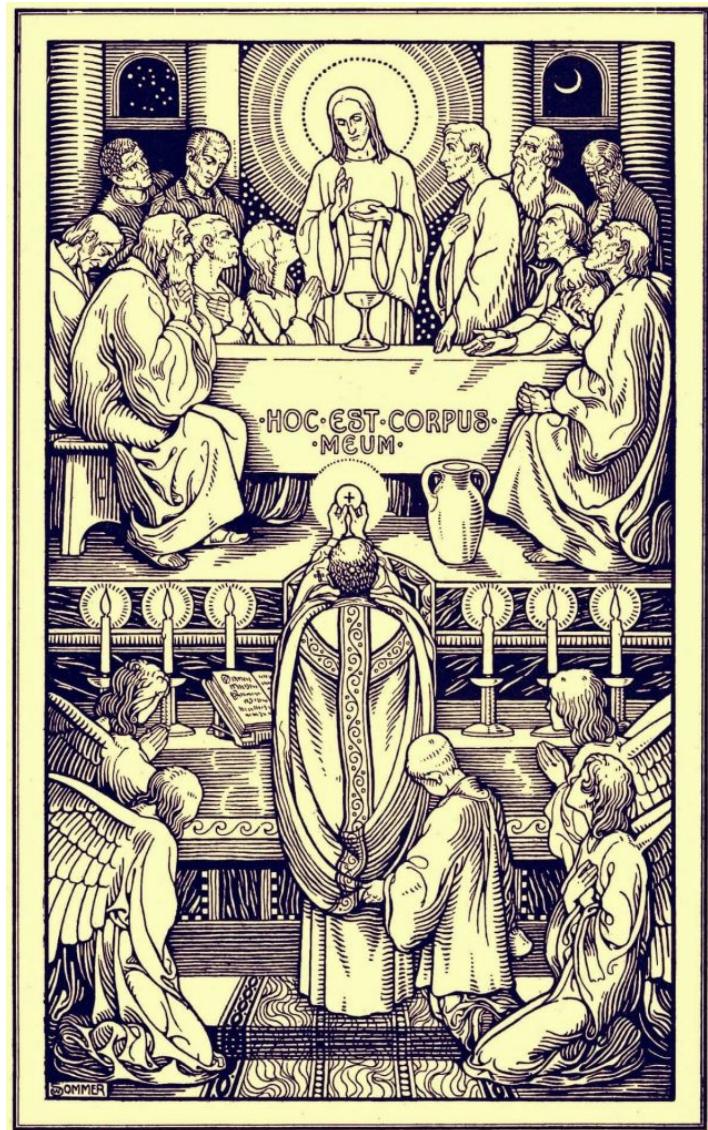




Christ Church

St Leonards on Sea



The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Sung Mass & Blessing of Candles
With Sunday School
10.30am
Sunday 1st February

Welcome to Christ Church!

Whoever you are and wherever you are from, know you are very welcome to join us for our worship this morning as we continue to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and His revelation to all the peoples of the world as we conclude today this season of Epiphany.

In advance of the Feast of Candlemas tomorrow, we will bless candles for use in the church for the coming year.

This evening at 6pm, we keep the Vigil of Candlemas with a Taizé service of prayer & sacred chant. Please do join us.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration on the Altar from 10am, during which time we also offer Morning Prayer. All are welcome to join, using the booklets at the back of church. Please remember to be reverent when Our Lord is exposed on the altar and not to disrespect Him.

After the Mass, please join us for refreshments at the back of church.

Children & families are very welcome here: our Sunday School meets at the back of Church and there is also a 'Children's Chapel' space with books and toys in the South Aisle, for young children and their parents to use at any point during Mass. Toilets are available at the back of church and in the crypt, accessed via the stairs at the end of the South Aisle.

During the Mass - 'Talk to God before Mass, and each other afterwards!'

Please follow the directions to *sit, stand or kneel in italics* and join with the words in bold. Please remember that people are trying to pray before Mass, so keep silence as much as possible and don't disturb those at prayer. Please also remember that the time after receiving Holy Communion is for prayer and contemplation – not to have conversations.

Holy Communion

At the Giving of Holy Communion, if you are confirmed and wish to receive the Sacrament, please come forward to receive Communion via the main aisle following the directions of the sidesmen.

Everyone is very welcome to come forward for a blessing: if you would like one, please bow your head.

Holy Communion is offered at the communion rail in both forms. Please kneel, unless you are unable. The Host is received on the tongue, (or if preferred on the hands). If you wish to receive from the Chalice, please assist the Eucharistic Ministers by guiding the Chalice towards your lips and not bowing your head forward.

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Please stand when the bell rings for the entrance of the sanctuary party

Introit Hymn

**1. Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.**

**2. By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless
ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft
radiance,
All that breathes beneath the
sun,
Evermore and evermore.**

**3. He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had
sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.**

**4. O how blest that wondrous
birthday,
When the Maid the curse
retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's
salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's
Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.**

**5. This is he, whom seer and
sybil -Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes the promised
Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**6. Let the storm and summer
sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding
shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.**

7. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering
Evermore and evermore.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father  and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit



The Lord be with you.



And also with you.

The Priest introduces the Mass and invites the children of the parish come forward to receive their bible and blessing, and the items to prepare their altar.

The Mass then continues with The Penitential Rite as the Priest invites us to prepare to confess to God with the Collect for purity:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Priest invites us to consider our sins in silence, before we confess them to the Lord saying: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life to the glory of thy name. Amen.

The Priest pronounces the absolution: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, **✠** pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Choir lead the Kyrie (Missa de Angelis)

The Choir lead the Gloria (Missa de Angelis)

The Priest sings the Collect:

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Please sit for the readings

First Reading A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah
The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 36. Vv5-10: R/ How precious is your loving mercy, O God

- 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens •
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; •
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.
- 7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! •
All mortal flesh shall take refuge
under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; •
they shall drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life •
and in your light shall we see light.
- 10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you •
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

Second Reading A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Please turn to face the Gospel, proclaimed from the midst of the people

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel (✚) of Our Lord Jesus Christ (✚) according to St Matthew
(✚) Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Please sit for the Homily

The homily is followed by a time of silent reflection.

The Creed – *please stand.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow)

*was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing for the **Intercessions**

After each petition: Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

As we pray for the dead: Rest eternal, grant unto them O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

After the final petition we entrust all our prayer and petitions to the unceasing prayers of the Saints in heaven, especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary who we greet saying: **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

*The Priest concludes the prayer, and all respond: **Amen***

The Peace

The Priest introduces the peace, then shares it with the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All share a sign of peace with those near them

Please then sit for the offertory hymn as bread and wine are brought forward for the preparation of the altar.

During this hymn a collection is taken towards the costs of Christ Church's ministries – if you don't have cash, there is a contactless reader by the entrance or you can donate online here:

christchurchstleonards.co.uk/donate



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand when the congregation is censed by the thurifer.

Offertory Hymn

1. Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and pow'r
That ever mortals knew,
That angels ever bore:
All are too poor
To Speak his worth,
Too poor to set
My Saviour forth.

3. My Advocate appears
For my defense on high;
The Father bows his ears
And lays his thunder by;
Not all that Hell
Or sin can say
Shall turn his heart,
His love away.

2. Jesus, my great High Priest
Offered his blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside:
His pow'rful blood
Did once atone,
And now it pleads
Before the throne.

4. Should all the hosts of death
And pow'rs of Hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms
Of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe,
For Christ displays
Superior pow'r
And guardian grace.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God our almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

The Priest offers the Prayer over the Gifts, and all respond. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give Him thanks and praise

*The Priest continues with the Opening (Preface) of the Prayer of Thanksgiving at the end of which the choir leads the **Sanctus***

SANCTUS

(11th) 12th century

The musical notation consists of eight staves of Gregorian chant. The lyrics are as follows:

San - ctus, San - ctus, San - ctus -

Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -

- ba - oth. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et - ter - ra -

gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán - na in ex - cé -

sis. Be - ne - dí - ctus qui - ve - nit in nō - mi - ne

Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán - na in ex -

- cé - sis -

Please kneel as the Priest continues the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

He first invokes the Holy Spirit to sanctify the offerings of bread and wine. He then recalls the Lord's actions the night before he died. A bell is rung as the Priest elevates the consecrated Host and Chalice.

He then says:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

At the end, all respond:



A-men.

The Lord's Prayer

Please remain kneeling as all pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

As the Priest breaks the bread, he says:

We break this bread, to share in the Body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

As the Body of Christ is broken, the choir lead the Agnus Dei

AGNUS DEI

15th century

A musical score for the Agnus Dei in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a 'rit.' (ritardando) instruction. The lyrics are in Latin: "Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecata nostra, miserere nobis." The score is repeated three times. The first two repetitions are identical, and the third repetition ends with an additional line: "Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecata nostra, dona nobis pacem." The music is simple, with mostly quarter notes and eighth notes, and includes several fermatas.

Giving of Communion

Please remain kneeling as the Priest shows the Body of Christ

Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Before coming forward to receive Holy Communion, all pray together:

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

As the Priest receives Holy Communion, a bell is rung & the people begin to come forward. If you are confirmed and wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward via the main aisle, following the directions of the stewards.

***All are welcome to come forward for a blessing: if you would like one,
please bow your head.***

Holy Communion is offered in both forms at the Communion Rail. Please kneel, unless you are unable. The Host is received on the tongue (or, if preferred, on the hands.) If you wish to receive from the Chalice, please assist the Eucharistic Ministers by guiding the Chalice towards your lips and not bowing your head forward. If you don't wish to receive from the Chalice, you can return to your seat after receiving the Host.

Intinction (dipping the Host in the Chalice) is not permitted.

*During the receiving of Holy Communion, the Choir sing an **Anthem**
O Taste and see how gracious the Lord is – Vaughan Williams*

All then join in the Communion Hymn

**1. Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendour,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous banquet founded;
High o'er all the heavens he reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.**

**2. Now I sink before thee lowly,
Filled with joy most deep and holy,
As with trembling awe and wonder
On thy mighty works I ponder;
How, by mystery surrounded,
Depths no man hath ever sounded,
None may dare to pierce unbidden
Secrets that with thee are hidden.**

**3. Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth;
At thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, thy glory, given.**

**4. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee,
Let me gladly here obey thee;
Never to my hurt invited,
Be thy love with love requited:
From this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts thou here dost give me,
As thy guest in heaven receive me.**

As the Sacred Vessels are cleansed in the Lady Chapel, the Priest & servers lead the people in the Prayer of Thanksgiving after Holy Communion

Almighty God, we thank thee for feeding us with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer thee our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of thy Spirit to live and work to thy praise and glory. Amen.

The Priest & servers then return to the Sanctuary for a time of silent prayer.

Please stand for the Priest to sing the Prayer after Communion

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Please remain standing for the Blessing of Candles

Anyone who still wishes to bring forward personal candles for blessing can do so now.

Dear brothers and sisters,
near forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Tomorrow we celebrate the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed in this house of God to encounter Christ.

There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

The priest blesses the candles:

O God, source and origin of all light,
who showed to the just man Simeon
the Light for revelation to the Gentiles,
we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing (+) these candles,
which we are eager to carry in praise of your name,
so that, treading the path of virtue,
we may reach that light which never fails.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The candles are then sprinkled with holy water and censed.

Please sit for the Notices

Please stand for The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, **✠** and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, let us go in the peace of Christ!

Thanks be to God!

As the Sanctuary party prepares to depart, all sing the Recessional Hymn

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,

My daily labour to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,

In all I think or speak or do.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned

O let me cheerfully fulfil;
In all my works thy presence find,
And prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Preserve me from my calling's snare,

And hide my simple heart above,
Above the thorns of choking care,
The gilded baits of worldly love.

4. Thee may I set at my right hand,

Whose eyes my inmost substance see,

And labour on at thy command,

And offer all my works to thee.

5. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
And every moment watch and pray,

And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to thy glorious day;

6. For thee delightfully employ
Whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,

And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with thee to heaven.

As the procession approaches the Image of Our Lady, all turn to focus on the Blessed Virgin as the Priest leads the singing of the Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought glad tidings to Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Ghost

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Behold the handmaid of the Lord **Be it unto me according to thy word**
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh **And dwelt among us.**
Hail Mary....

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ

The Priest sings the collect, and all respond Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Please join us after the Mass for refreshments.

Make sure to take a copy of the 'Week Ahead' booklet which gives details of the times of worship this week at Christ Church, as well as upcoming events.



for the Vigil of Candlemas

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
6PM

MUSIC - SILENCE - SCRIPTURE – PRAYER
followed by refreshments

Taizé Prayer is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply in Christ's presence around and within us. Repeated chants and songs, prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle lit space.



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Christ Church

St Leonards on Sea

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