

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your
own image
and yet more wonderfully restored
us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in
our humanity,
so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

New Testament Reading.
Isaiah 61.10-62.3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my
God;
for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62.1} For Zion's sake I will not keep
silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not
rest,
until her vindication shines out like
the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your
vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new
name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in
the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

Psalm 148.7-14

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his
command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

**¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying
birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of
the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and
heaven.

**¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his
people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are
close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Gospel Reading.
Luke 2.15-21

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds said
to one another, 'Let us go now to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has
taken place, which the Lord has made
known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with
haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Robert McAllester-Jones, David Edge,
Martin Dewes, Chris Clayton,

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Elizabeth Chapman, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Alison Cox-Toplis, Chris Dickerson, Sonia Doidge, Colin Eastwood, Joseph Harrington, Robert Harris, James Knight, Matthew and Emmeline and their parents, Ruth and Andrew Martel, Marielouise Oliver, Arthur Palin, Nick Rutter, Anthony Staples aged 6, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Judith Watson, Renee Wellings, Peter and Anne Whatson, Felicity Woodfield, Jamie, Gary and Denise, Julian & Wendy,

Those who have died

Margaret Harris, Bill Hill, & Samuel Lamburn

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST JOHN

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson,
Allan Law

Those who have died

Eileen Fletcher

The United Benefice of St Michael
Lichfield and St John, Wall

1st Sunday of Christmas 27 December

Canticle - A Song of Julian of Norwich

Christ came in our poor flesh
to share a mother's care.

God chose to be our mother in all things and so made the foundation of his work, most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all,
arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh to
share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail, until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, for the love of Christ works in us; Christ is the one whom we love.