

Peace Vigil – 31st December

Opening Music: What child is this (instrumental)

Introduction & Welcome:

Opening Prayer:

A Period of silence will follow

Liturgy of the Hours Psalms – Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity

Fr D: O wonderful exchange! The Creator of human nature took on a human body and was born of the Virgin. He became man without having a human father and has bestowed on us his divine nature.

Fr D: Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!

*All: From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!
High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.*

Fr D: Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

*All: From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.*

Fr D: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

*All: O wonderful exchange! The Creator of human nature took on a human body and was
born of the Virgin. He became man without having a human father and has bestowed
on us his divine nature.*

(pause)

Deacon B: You were born of the Virgin in a mysterious manner of which no one can speak; you fulfilled the scriptures; like rain falling gently on the earth you came hither to save the human race. We praise you: you are our God.

Deacon B: O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Sion, praise your God!

*All: 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.*

Deacon B: He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.
He showers down snow white as wool,
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.

*All: He hurls down hailstones like crumbs.
The waters are frozen at his touch;
he sends forth his word and it melts them:
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.*

Deacon B: 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.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Deacon B: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

All: You were born of the Virgin in a mysterious manner of which no one can speak; you fulfilled the scriptures; like rain falling gently on the earth you came hither to save the human race. We praise you: you are our God.

(pause)

Fr D: Moses saw the thorn bush that was on fire yet was not burnt up. In it we see a sign of your virginity, which all must honour. Mother of God, pray for us.

Fr D: Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

*All: He chose us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy
and blameless before him.*

Fr D: He destined us in love
to be his own through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

*All: In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
which he lavished upon us.*

Fr D: He has made known to us
in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose
which he set forth in Christ.

*All: His purpose he set forth in Christ
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.*

Fr D: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

*All: Moses saw the thorn bush that was on fire yet was not burnt up. In it we see a sign of
your virginity, which all must honour. Mother of God, pray for us.*

Gospel: *John 14: 23-29*

A period of Silence will follow

Music: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (instrumental)*

Litany of Peace:

Deacon B: In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion,
 Jesus Christ wants to make his home and meet his friends.
 He is the light of life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

Deacon B: In him there is neither Jew nor Gentile. Neither Protestant nor Catholic.

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Deacon B: He is the light of life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

Deacon B: In him there is neither black nor white,
 neither First world nor Third world.

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Deacon B: He is the light of life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

Deacon B: In him there is neither male nor female, neither master nor servant.

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Deacon B: He is the light of life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

Deacon B: In him there is neither rich nor poor, neither middle nor working class.

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Deacon B: He is the light of life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

Music: Silent Night (instrumental)

Now we pray for peace in Asia, the largest of the continents:

Fr D: Lord, hear our prayer.
 We pray for the peoples of Asia.
 Nowhere in our world do we find more division and disharmony.
 Our hearts ache with the pain of Palestine.
 Our eyes look with horror to North Korea.
 Our whole being cries out to stop the continuing killing in Afghanistan.
 Death and destruction are found everywhere we look.
 God, Allah, Yahweh, help them.
 Send your Spirit upon all people of good-will.
 Help them see that killing and murder helps no-one.
 Show them that peace is strength, division is weakness.
 Lord, fill the hearts of all who care with a desire to bring peace to Asia.
 God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, give them your peace.

We now light our Peace Candle for Asia.

We now pray for peace on the world's richest continent, the continent of Europe:

Fr D: Lord, hear our prayer.
 We pray for the peoples of Europe.
 Here we see that money cannot buy happiness.
 Even in the continent blessed by wealth and influence
 we find that disunity and division are rife.
 We turn our backs on those who need our help –
 the poor, the marginalised, the immigrant, the asylum seeker.
 From our bounty we hoard rather than share,
 we give aid as a token, we acquire wealth at little cost –
 except to those who labour for no reward.
 Lord show us the futility of our ways.
 Help us to see that what we gain comes at a cost to others.
 Help us to see that the price of our
 wealth is the suffering of someone else.
 Help us to acknowledge our guilt
 and work to salvage the damage we have done.
 Lord, fill the hearts of all who care
 with a desire to bring peace to Europe.
 God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, give them your peace.

We now light our Peace Candle for Europe.

Act of Commitment: We all recite this Act of Commitment together

We are called to say yes, that the Kingdom might break through,
to renew and transform our dark and groping world.

We stutter and we stammer to the lone God who calls
and pleads a New Jerusalem in the bloodied Sinai straits.

We are called to say yes, that honeysuckle may twine
and twist its sweet smelling leaves over the graves of nuclear arms.

We are called to say yes, that black may sing with white
and pledge peace and healing for hatred past.

We are called to say yes, so that nations might gather
and dance one great movement for the joy of humankind.

We are called to say yes, so that rich and poor embrace
and become equal in their poverty through the silent tears that fall.

We are called to say yes, that the whisper of God
might be heard through our sirens and the screams of our bombs.

We are called to say yes to a God who holds fast
to the vision of the Kingdom for a trembling world of pain.

We are called to say yes to this God who reaches out
and asks us to share His crazy dream of love.

*The Lord's Prayer:**Blessing & Dismissal:*

Fr D: May the Love of the faithful Creator,
 the Peace of the Wounded Healer,
 the Joy of the challenging Spirit,
 the Hope of the Three-In-One
 surround us and encourage us,
 today, tonight and for ever.
 And may God's blessing come upon us all,
 Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit,
 now and for ever more.

All: Amen.

Deacon B: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music: Adeste fideles (instrumental)