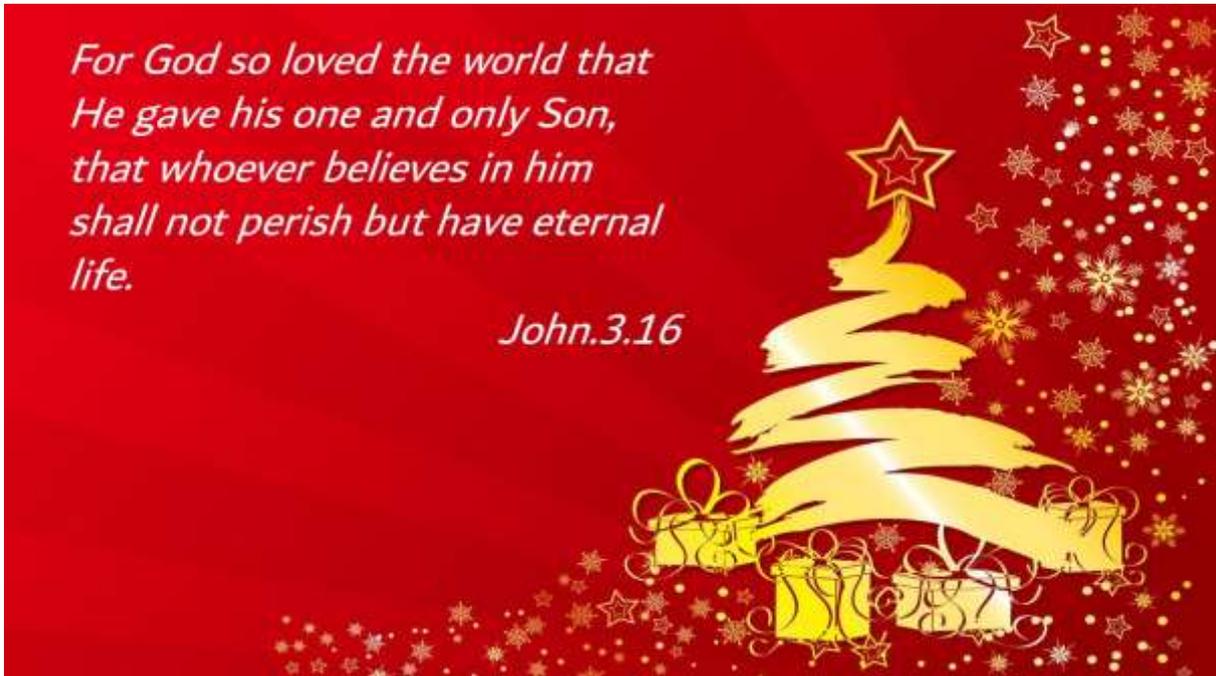


The Blofield Benefice

A Service for the Christmas Season

*For God so loved the world that
He gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal
life.*

John.3.16



Acclamation

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

And we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**

from John 1

Opening prayer

God our Father,
at this time you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
By the presence of your Spirit amongst us,
confirm our faith in him
and fix our eyes steadfastly upon him
until the day dawns
and Christ the morning Star rises in our hearts

All Amen

The Carol

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

2 Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
He that was born upon that joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

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Invitation to Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in repentance and faith.

from Malachi 4

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.

Absolution:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

The Collect

The First Reading

After the reading this response is used

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 117

- 1 O praise the Lord, all you nations;
praise him, all you peoples.
- 2 For great is his steadfast love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

All **Praise the Lord**

Hymn

1 Angel-voices ever singing
round your throne of light,
angels' music ever ringing
rests not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless you
and confess you Lord of might.

2 Honour, glory, might and merit,
for your works and ways,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God through endless days:
with the best that you have given
earth and heaven render praise.

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The Second Reading

After the reading this response is used

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

All

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Intercessions

O God, you have spoken to us in these last days by your Son, who taught us to pray with faith and expectancy. Hear, now, our prayers spoken and those of our quietened hearts.

For our homes, families and friends . . .

God of mercy
Hear our prayer

For the communities of Blofield, Hemblington, Pedham and North Burlingham as the pandemic continues to affect our way of life.

God of mercy
Hear our prayer

For the frontline of medical care in surgeries, hospitals and nursing homes, in our wider community. For those helping the isolated and the vulnerable.

God of mercy
Hear our prayer

For your church and the community of believers in this benefice. For the strengthening of the ties of love and mutual service between us. For the members of the body gifted in a whole variety of ways. For growth in faith and the grace of God which nourishes our certain hope.

God of mercy
Hear our prayer

For the proclamation of the Gospel in Word and deed. For the power of the Gospel to set the captive free. For the comfort of the gospel for those who mourn.

God of mercy,
**you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**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**

Hymn

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no care could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

- 2 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901-1953)
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Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
your Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen