



**Eucharist of
Christmas Day 2024
9.30am**



Welcome this morning, as we gather together to celebrate with great joy the birth of our Saviour!

The Gathering

Processional Hymn

All stand to sing the hymn:

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

The ministers lead the opening words from the Crib:

‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.
Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God,
and now we see you as a newborn child.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The president welcomes the congregation.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of
our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess
our sins.

A short silence is kept.

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 all 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.

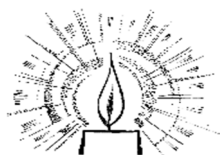
The president gives the absolution.

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.**

Gloria in excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer;
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle



The Collect (special prayer for today)

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our
joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*We pray together in silence, then the president gathers up our prayers in
the **Collect of Christmas Day.***

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Titus 2:11-14

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Reading

Today Christ is born:

Alleluia!

Today the Saviour has come:

Alleluia!

Today the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel passage is Luke 2:1-14

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

The Address

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand.

Let us declare our faith in God:

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

**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. Amen.**

from Ephesians, Chapter 3

Prayers of Intercession

Please kneel or sit for the prayers.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.



Carol

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angels' strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring;
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

The collection is taken during this carol. All donations received today will support the work of a Children's Hospital in Bethlehem.

Preparation of the Table

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

We sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus

We sing:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,
be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

We sing:

**Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us,
Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us,
Jesus, redeemer of the world; grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Before the distribution the president says:

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

Please come to communion as directed by the stewards. All who are communicant members of any Christian church are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those adults and children who do not normally receive communion are very welcome to come forward for a blessing. It helps us to identify those who are not receiving Communion if you bring this service sheet in your hand.

During Communion

*The choir will sing
"Gaudete" by Piaae Cantiones arr. John Lewis*



All sing:

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;
Enough for him whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Prayer after Communion

A short time of silence is kept.

The president says a prayer.

We pray together:

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and
brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who**



share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Dismissal

We stand to sing together:

**O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels:
 *O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

**God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
 *O come, let us adore him ...***

**Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:
 *O come, let us adore him ...***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
 *O come, let us adore him ...***

The Blessing

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that light upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing...

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

The ministers and people depart.



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