

# Christmas Morning Family Communion Service



*Hymn numbers, unless otherwise stated, taken from Hymns Old and New: New Anglican Edition (1996)*

## Introduction & Welcome

**Hymn** 357 O come all ye faithful

*The crib is prepared by the children*

*The Minister greets the people*

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."  
Luke 2:15

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

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## 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.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

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

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9.2-3, 6-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** 377 O little town of Bethlehem

*Remain standing*

## **The Gospel**

*When it is announced*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Luke 2 1-14

*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his

own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### *The Shepherds and the Angels*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those  
with whom he is pleased!"

### *At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Hymn:** 554 While Shepherds Watched.

## **Around the Crib**

**Hymn** 51 Away in the manger

### *Stand*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers**

*After each petition there is silence followed by*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Father, On this holy day your Son our Saviour was born in human form. Renew your Church as the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

On this holy day Christians the world over are celebrating his birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand (. . . and) all who are in pain or distress today.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to (. . . and) all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to witness to the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in (. . . and in) all the world.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Lord, in your mercy

## **Hear our prayer**

On this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with all the saints.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Stand*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

and his name is called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

**Hymn** 253 It came upon the midnight Clear

*During this hymn those who do not wish to stay for Communion may leave in the last verse*

## **The Thanksgiving 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.  
And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother,  
that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.

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 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.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name:  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

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

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,**

**may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father, whose 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.

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

### **The Dismissal**

#### **Blessing**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

#### **Hymn 199 Hark the herald angels sing**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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