

Simple Crib Service



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

Hymn 403 Once in Royal David's City

Light the Advent Candle – Advent 3 – John the Baptist (Pink Candle)

Rose is the colour for the Third Sunday in Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday from the Latin word 'Rejoice'. Gaudete Sunday anticipates the joy of the Christmas celebration, so its colour is a mixture of Advent purple and the Christmas white one – the Christ Candle.

Bidding Prayer

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith. **Amen**

Hymn 377 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Build the crib and bless it

(The children come in dressed in costume and say a few words as they present the figures for the crib. They then form a tableau in the style of the crib).

Order of the presentation of the figures:

Cattle

Mary, Joseph and the donkey

Jesus

Shepherds and sheep

Angel

3 Kings (but they don't actually arrive until Epiphany)

Blessing of the Crib

God our Father your son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation, may this crib be a symbol of that Holy birth: may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen**

Prayers

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given
Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor:

Give your wisdom to the rulers of nations.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Mighty God

Make the world know that the government is on your shoulders

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Everlasting Father,

Establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Prince of Peace

Bring in the endless kingdom of your peace

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty Lord

Hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us, as you accomplish

Your will in our Lord Jesus Christ

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 444 Silent Night

Blessing

May the joy of angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-Child be ours this Christmas and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all for ever more.

Hymn 199 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

With thanks to Toni Kerney