**A service of remembrance and thanksgiving**

**Allsaintstide**

**MORNING PRAYER AND ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

**A responsorial prayer of commemoration**

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY RESOURCES**

**AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

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**ADVENT WREATH**

**Advent Wreath pathways**

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**Sequence 3: Christmas Eve – traditional pattern from King’s College, Cambridge**

**An order for the First Holy Communion of Christmas**

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**Holy Communion – The Epiphany**

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**Holy Communion – The Presentation**

**A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died**

GATHERING

*Welcome & Greeting*

The Love of the Lord be always with you. **and also with you.**

Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord. Let us celebrate with joy. Rejoice in the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men and women. In their victory the angels rejoice and praise God.

*Hymn: Glory to you, O God*

*Introduction*

We have come here tonight to remember those who have died, and to give thanks for their lives and for how they were woven with ours. We acknowledge the pain of being the ones left behind, but also acknowledge their going on to be closer to God. Without death there is no resurrection, which allows us as God’s people to mourn those we love with hope in our hearts.

*Penitence*

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from God both mercy and forgiveness.

*Kneel/Sit*

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom, where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

*Acclamation (Stand)*

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and glorified in the assembly of your saints we give you thanks and praise. With your holy Church in heaven and earth we acclaim you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Collect of All Saints’ Day*

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living  
that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 – the hope of faith*

*Psalm 126 – a prayer for deliverance (seated)*

When the Lord brought us back from slavery: **we were like those who dream.**

Our mouths were filled with laughter: **our tongues with songs of joy**.

Then those around said, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ **The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.**

Those who sow in tears **shall reap with songs of joy.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

*Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2 – a great cloud of witnesses*

*Hymn: Thanks be to God for his saints*

*Address*

*Hymn 62: Abide with me*

*Silence*

*At the invitation, those who wish to may come forward and place a memorial card in the basket, which shall then be placed on the altar.*

*Prayer*

Father in heaven,  
we thank you because you made us in your own image  
and gave us gifts in mind, body and spirit.  
We thank you now for each person remembered here,  
and what they have meant to each of us.  
As we honour their memory,  
make us more aware that you are the one  
from whom comes every perfect gift,  
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Music Reflection………………Edward Elgar, ‘Nimrod’ from Enigma Variations*

*Hymn: For all the saints who showed your love*

RESPONDING

*Affirmation of Faith (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.**

*Prayers of the people*

Let us pray.

Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

The road ahead can seem very long and very dark after the death of a loved one. Often there seems little point in going on. Sometimes the pain and loss can be quite overwhelming. But God says: Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

We hold out to God all those who are here tonight. All those who are newly bereaved, and all those who have journeyed on awhile since their bereavement. May those have passed this way, reach out and reassure those who cannot believe the pain and sadness will ever pass Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

We hold out to God all those who have seen division in their family since someone has died. May God’s way of love heal the hurt and bring the family closer again. Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

We hold out to God all those here tonight who are remembering their parents. We thank God for the life they gave us. Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

We hold out to God all those here tonight who are remembering children who have died. We expect our children to be our future and when they die so many of our hopes and expectations go with them. Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

We hold out to God all those here tonight who have had their partners die. Those who feel lonely and unsettled, those who long for another human’s touch. Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

May all of us here tonight be aware of our friends and neighbours who grieve. May we welcome them into our homes and dare to walk the road with them for a while. May they in time find a new and healed way forward with God at their side. Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way.**

And with love and grateful remembrance for their lives, and in the hope of the resurrection that is ours through faith, we hold before God those from this parish who have died in the past year.

*As their names are read out, a candle will be lit for each on the altar*

Do not be afraid for I shall be with you. **Lighten our path, Lord, and show us the way that we may go on, trusting that God is here with us wherever our path goes.**

We say the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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. 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.**

*Collection Hymn 459: For all the saints, who from their labours rest*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Blessing*

May God’s blessing be upon all who gather here tonight. May God’s blessing be upon all who grieve. May God’s blessing be upon us all, as we journey through life, in times of sadness and in times of laughter. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Dismissal*

Let us go out into the world. Let us live our lives well and let us not be afraid. Go in the peace of the Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, help us to remember that beyond our brief day is the eternity of your love.

*Rienhold Niebuhr*

**Holy Communion during All Saints Tide**

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*Prayer of Preparation* God of history, for your faithfulness across the years, the guidance you have given and the love you have shown, we thank you. For those whose lives bear testimony to your sovereign purpose and saving grace – inspiring, instructing, questioning and challenging – we give you praise. Help us on this day of remembering to recall and learn from the heritage in which we stand – the eloquent testimony of lives lived for you, the innumerable examples of faith, courage, love and goodness. Speak to us through them, so that we in turn might speak to others of you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Hymn: For all the saints who showed your love*

*Welcome & Greeting*

*Introduction*

Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord! Let us keep the feast in honour of all God’s saints, In whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.

*Collect for Purity*

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.

*Penitence*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the first and great commandment.  
And the second is like it.  
You shall love your neighbour as yourself.  
On these two commandments depend all the law

and the prophets. Matthew 22: 37-39

Lord, have mercy on us,  
and write these your laws in our hearts.

*Confession*

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,  
looking to Jesus in penitence and faith. Lord, you are gracious and compassionate: Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy**.

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation: Christ, have mercy, **Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

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

*Gloria in Excelsis (Stand)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s 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.**

*Collect (All Saints)*

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 – the new covenant*

*Psalm 34:1-6 – a psalm of trust*

1. **I will bless the | Lord at | all times;**

**his praise shall | ever be | in my | mouth.**

1. **My soul shall glory | in the | Lord;**

**let the | humble | hear and be | glad.**

1. **O magnify the | Lord with | me;**

**let us ex|alt his | name to|gether.**

1. **I sought the Lord | and he | answered me**

**and de|livered me from | all my | fears.**

1. **Look upon him | and be | radiant**

**and your faces | shall not | be a|shamed.**

1. **This poor soul cried, and the | Lord | heard me**

**and | saved me from | all my | troubles.**

**Glory to the Father and | to the Son and | to the | Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning is | now, and shall be for | ever. Amen.**

*Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3 – the future hope*

*Gradual Hymn: Glory to you, O God*

*Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 – the Beatitudes (Stand)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*The Sermon*

*Nicene Creed (Stand)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The Prayers of the People*

Let us pray.

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God,  
the source of all life and holiness. Merciful Lord,  
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Bless Alan our bishop and all ministers of your Church,  
that by faithful proclamation of your word  
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord.  
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ from glory to glory. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**.

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above,  
that they may find Christ’s way of freedom and life. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying;  
and all who bring light to those in darkness. Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain, that, raised from death to life in Christ, their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us to your kingdom and grant us your peace at all times. Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Hasten the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in your kingdom.  
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks  
for the whole company of your saints in glory,  
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;  
by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love. **Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power, be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Peace (Stand)*

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God,  
through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of God’s peace.

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

*Offertory Hymn 459: For all the saints*

*At the Preparation of the Table*

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Taking of the Bread and Wine*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us t**herefore let us celebrate the feast**.

*The Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us**.

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

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

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks, most gracious God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and glorified in the assembly of your saints. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. We, your holy Church, acclaim you. In communion with angels and archangels, and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voice to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing:

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

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again. On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***Lord’s Prayer (Kneel)***

**As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:** 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.

*The Breaking of the Bread* The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. **We being many are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

*Agnus Dei* **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

*Giving of Communion*

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, ‘Alleluia.’ The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom. **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

*If you are a visitor to the parish today, you are very welcome to join with us in Holy Communion.*

*Please follow the directions of the Churchwardens.*

*After Communion* *the Great Silence is observed.*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Pos****t Communion Prayers***

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

*Blessing*

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship and a share in their praises. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness and to come to the full radiance of glory. **Amen.** And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.**Amen.**

*Hymn: Thanks be to God for his saints*

*The Dismissal*

Following God’s saints in the ways of holiness and truth, go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**MORNING PRAYER AND ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

**Processional Hymn 5 - All my hope on God is founded**

### Welcome & Introduction

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

He also said, 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' As we realise our failure to live up to Christ's standards and to obey his commands, let us come in penitence to seek God's forgiveness, as we say together:

*(Sit or kneel)*

**Almighty and merciful God, Lord of men and nations, we confess with shame the sins, both private and public, by which we have broken your law and grieved your Spirit. We acknowledge the reproach that war has brought upon the name of Christ. We confess our lack of love for you and for our fellow men. For the sake of your Son, who died for us, save us from our sins. Take from us all hatred and bitterness, whether in thought, word or action. Teach us to forgive, as we are forgiven, so that we may grow more like him and live our lives according to your will: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised to forgive all who repent of their sins and believe in his Son, Jesus Christ; grant us pardon for our sins, peace in our hearts, strength in his service, and everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Prayer for God’s help**

Move among us, O God; give us life: **Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us. **Renew us in mind and spirit.**

Give us the joy of your help: **with your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

**Psalm 101 Jubilate Deo**

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth: **serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.** Know that the Lord he is God: **it is he who has made us and we are his we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.** Come into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: g**ive thanks to him and bless his holy name.** For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever: **his faithfulness throughout all generations.** Glory to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit; **as it was in the beginning is now: and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading Isaiah 2:1– 5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD’s house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.’  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.   
He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk  in the light of the LORD!

**Hymn 12 God is our strength and refuge**

**New Testament Reading John15:9-17**

Jesus said, As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**Hymn 606 As the deer pants for the water**

**Affirmation of Faith**

With the whole church **We affirm that we are made in God’s image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere **We affirm God’s goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

 Let us pray *(sit or kneel)*

As Jesus taught, we are bold to say, **Our Father** ...

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  **and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen **and grant her government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness **and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people **and bless those whom you have chosen**

Give peace in our time, O Lord, **and let your glory be over all the earth**

O God, make clean our hearts within us **and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

**Collect The Collect of the day**

**O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Act of Remembrance**

**Hymn 488 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus**

**Sermon**

**Hymn 627 What a friend we have in Jesus**

**Occasional Prayers**

**Collection Hymn 612 Eternal Father, strong to save**

When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace? **We will.** Will you seek to heal the wounds of war? **We will.** Will you work for a just future for all humanity? **We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God’s servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Recessional Hymn 537 O God our help in ages past**

**A responsorial prayer of commemoration**

Remember, Lord, those whose stories were unspoken and untold. **Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.**

Remember, Lord, those whose minds were darkened and disturbed by memories of war. **Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom**

Remember, Lord, those who suffered in silence, and those whose bodies were disfigured by injury and pain. **Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.**

Thenations are in tumult, and the peoples devise a vain plot **Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness** A sound of loud lamentation is heard: Rachel is weeping for her children **Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness**  Not one stone will be left standing on another **Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness** Open our hearts towards our neighbour, and help us to work together for the common good. **Lord, hear us and help us.** Strengthen us to stand for all that is just and true and right. **Lord, hear us and help us.** Grant that we may come to understand our enemies, **Lord, hear us and help us.** Bring release to those with abiding memories of hurt and injury **Lord, hear us and help us.** Comfort all those who mourn, the troubled, and all who call upon you in their distress. **Lord, hear us and help us.** Guide the leaders of the nations and those who workfor peace, and make us all subject to Christ’s just and gentle rule**. Lord, hear us and help us. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY RESOURCES**

**INTRODUCTION FOR MORNING PRAYER**

The Lord reigns for ever; he has established his throne for judgement.

He will judge the world in righteousness;

he will govern the peoples with justice (Psa. 9:7-8).

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

For great is his love towards us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever (Psa. 117).

We have come together to worship almighty God;

to offer him praise and thanksgiving

for our nation's deliverance in time of war;

to recall to our minds those who through death, injury or bereavement,

suffered to bring peace and freedom to our world;

to seek his forgiveness for our failure to achieve reconciliation

between the nations, and to ask for strength

to overcome evil and injustice wherever it is found.

announce service continuing on page p101 let us confess our sins to God our Father

**AN INTRODUCTION TO MORNING PRAYER**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40.31*

*The presiding minister continues:* We meet in the presence of God. We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

let us confess our sins to God our Father

We continue on page 102

O God our Father, we thank you for all your goodness to us as a nation, and for the many occasions when you have guided and protected us.

We thank you for your Word, the Bible, which down the years has moulded the laws and thinking of our country.

Above all, we thank and praise you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour.

Today, especially, we give thanks for those who died in the cause of freedom and justice,

so that your truth might continue to be known, and your laws obeyed within our nation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord of hosts, stretch forth, we pray your almighty arm to strengthen and protect the forces of our Queen in every peril of sea and land and air. Shelter them in the day of battle, and in time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with loyalty and courage; and grant that in all things they may serve with honour and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Father, we remember how your Son, during the time of his ministry on earth, had great compassion for those who suffered.

We bring to you those who still suffer as the result of war.

Hear our prayer, Father, for those who live with the pain and scars of bodily injury; for those whose minds are shattered by the horrors which they witnessed or endured; for those who have been bereaved; for those who do not believe in you or trust their fellow men.

Grant to them peace of mind and heart, and relief from all their suffering;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for peace

O Prince of peace, bring your peace into our disordered world.

Come now to live in our hearts. bring your order into our chaos.

Hasten the day when you will come again,

and everyone will acknowledge your sovereign rule; in your name we ask this. Amen.

For our Queen and those in authority

Lord God, whose faithfulness knows no end,

we pray for our Queen and for all those under her

who guide and govern the affairs of our nation.

Grant that they may honour you, so that they may be

set free from the fear of man.

Help them in every situation to know and do the thing that is right.

Overrule all their deliberations for the good of our people and the glory of your name.

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our nation

Grant, O Lord, that our people may devote themselves unselfishly to the common good, giving much and taking little.

Grant that we may love your Word and seek to obey your commandments, so that justice and peace, unity and concord, may reign in our land;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION**

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

**INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray for the peace of the world:  
for statesmen and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right ...

for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour, and creed ...

and for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace ...

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace:  
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself, that by the power of your Spirit  
the peace which is founded on righteousness may be established throughout the whole world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

for the injured and the disabled, for the mentally distressed,  
and for those whose faith in God and man has been  
weakened or destroyed ...

for the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry,  
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...

for those who mourn their dead,  
those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents,  
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief ...

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
infinite in wisdom, love, and power:  
have compassion on those for whom we pray;  
and help us to use all suffering  
in the cause of your kingdom;  
through him who gave himself for us on the cross,  
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

We offer to almighty God our thanksgiving for the many blessings with which he has enriched our lives.

For the Queen and her family, and all who under her bear the responsibility of government:  
**Thanks be to God.**

For those who serve in the Armed Forces of the Crown on sea and land and in the air:  
**Thanks be to God.**

For doctors, nurses, chaplains, and all who minister to those in need or distress:  
**Thanks be to God.**

For the unity of our people within the Commonwealth:  
**Thanks be to God.**

For the sacrifices made, in two world wars and in current conflicts, whereby our peace has been preserved:  
**Thanks be to God.**

For the Royal British Legion:  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ACT OF COMMITMENT**

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God  
and our fellow men and women:  
that we may help, encourage, and comfort others,  
and support those working for the relief of the needy  
and for the peace and welfare of the nations.  
  
**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity,  
in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful  
now and always. Amen.**

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping  
those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.  
  
*Here follows* **The Silence.**  
  
**PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS**

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God we once again thank you for the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in the violence of war as they fought to uphold justice and freedom. Hear us now as we pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict.

For those who have lost loved ones we ask that you, the God of all comfort, will give them comfort in their grief and distress.

For all members of the armed forces currently on active service, we ask that you will protect them from bullets, bombs, land mines and that you will preserve their lives, thwarting the plans of the enemy.

Speak to their family and friends in their anxiety and worry so that, by your grace, they may experience the reality of the living God.

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are threatened by war or disfigured by war or terror, we ask that you will protect and heal.

God of Peace, we make requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving for everyone: for kings and all those in authority so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. Give much wisdom, resilience, resolve and strength to the political, military and religious leaders tasked with peace-keeping assignments.

O God of truth and justice, may we ourselves lift our eyes above the torment of this sinful broken world, and fix them on the one who one day will return, remove sin forever and establish peace forever in his kingdom, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we thank you for the past give us grace to put our faith in you for the future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. We pray in Jesus’ Name. **Amen**.

**AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

**Processional Hymn 37 Come ye thankful people, come**

Come to God, giver of life and love. **Amen – we are here.**

Give to God all that has been given to you. **Amen – we give as we have received.**

Raise your voices to sing of God’s goodness. **Amen – we sing praise for all God has done.**

Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink. Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. Let us rejoice in the world we see around us; **Let us praise the giver of beauty and new life.**

**CONFESSION**

We confess the times when we fail to recognize you, the times when we seek to limit you, the times when we do not acknowledge you: **Lord, forgive us.**

We confess that we take you for granted; we do not see you in the harvest, we do not see you in our work, we do not see you in our productivity: **Lord, forgive us.**

Because we do not see you, because we limit you, we fail you We fail you in our relationships with each other, with creation, with yourself; in our stewardship of time, money, creation, the Gospel; in our response to all that you are and all that you do: **Lord, forgive us.**

Refresh our souls, O God, that we may have a new heart for you, a new heart for each other, a new heart for your created order: **Lord, empower us.**

Teach us anew who you are that we may respond to you in generosity, in caring for each other, in caring for your world, in caring for you: **Lord, empower us**

May harvest be a sign for us not only that you covenant with us, but that we covenant with you to be good, generous and faithful stewards of all that you entrust to us: **Lord, empower us.**

**ABSOLUTION**

Through God's Holy Spirit the face of the earth is renewed, our sins are forgiven and we are raised to new life **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Stand*

Let us praise God for his mercy. **And give thanks to him for his goodness.** Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn 25 All things bright and beautiful**

**Old Testament Reading** - **Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

**Anthem**

**New Testament Reading -** **Luke 10:1-12**

**Hymn 38 Father blessing every seed-time**

**We believe in God whose goodness is more than enough for all: filling the universe with gifts of love and resounding through our lives in praise. We will take hold of all that God gives with reverence and joy; we will make God known in our lives and worship so that all may see and experience God’s love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s greatest gift of all: who takes the smallest of seeds, a mere whisper of faith, and brings forth a harvest of good things. We will take all that Christ has given us; our gifts, our talents, our very selves, so that Christ can walk our streets once more.**

**We believe in God’s Spirit of Truth, bringing to fruition all that has been given: gentle as a breeze or shocking as a storm, we will allow God’s gifts to be stirred to life in us; breathing, laughing, living in our world, so all may know of God’s harvest of Love. Alleluia! Amen.**

In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you created a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.  
Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil’s nutrients, sunshine’s warmth, rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow.   
Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward, gardener and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibilities and the capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth.  
Creator God: **Forgive us**  
  
A moment of quiet, time to listen, time to be still with God – what does he say to us this harvest time?  
  
God of harvest, you place us at the centre of your creation  
feed us, equip us and having provided for us  
look to a different harvest in us;  
a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others.  
God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us that our lives might bring glory to you. **Amen**

**Gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables**

**Children’s address**

**Hymn - 47 We plough the fields, and scatter**

**Address**

**Hymn 44 Praise and thanksgiving**

**Prayers**

**Collection hymn 16 Like a mighty river flowing**

Let us pray to God, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation. Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.  
We pray for your world, that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another.  
Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

You have given the human race a rich land, a land of streams and springs,  
wheat and barley, vines and oil and honey.  
We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.  
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.  
Father, Lord of creation, **in your mercy, hear us.**

In Christ you call us to a new way of life, loving our neighbours before ourselves.  
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is  
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be  
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.  
Thank you for those, living and departed,  
who have shown a true respect for your creation …  
Help us to follow in their footsteps, until, with them, we see you face to face,  
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

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

**The Blessing**

God of seedtime and harvest: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and strengthen us to live and blossom and bear good fruit to your praise and glory. Amen.

*Stand*

For the beauty of a country scene **We praise you Lord for sight**  
For the coolness of a mountain stream  
**We praise you Lord for touch**  
For nightingale in tuneful flow  
**We praise you Lord for ears**  
For the taste of fruit that we have grown  
**We praise you Lord for senses**

**Recessional Hymn 365 Praise to the Lord**

**St Columba’s Church, Gleno -**

**Parish of Raloo GLENO COMMUNITY HARVEST CELEBRATION**

We gather this evening to give thanks to God for an abundant Harvest: **and to praise his holy name.**

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus: **giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.**

Tonight we will sing hymns and sacred songs: **let us sing to God with thankful hearts**

Open our lips, Lord: **and we shall praise your name.**

**CONFESSION**

We confess to the Lord of the harvest that we are people who are eager to improve our lives, but slow to improve our world; eager to enjoy the comfort of the world’s resources, but slow to stop the suffering of the world’s poorest; eager to do well, but slow to do good. We pray that you Father would forgive us, change us and show us a better way. O Lord of the rich and poor, have mercy on us, we pray.

**ABSOLUTION**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his service, to the praise and glory of His name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HARVEST COLLECT**

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruit of the earth in their season: Grant that we may use them for your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**ACCLAMATION** *(Stand)*

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe **Your word calls forth the dusk of evening.**

Your wisdom creates both night and day, **You determine the cycles of time.**

You arrange the succession of seasons and establish the stars in their heavenly courses **Lord of the starry hosts is your name.**

Living and eternal God, rule over us always **Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening falls.**

**Proclaiming the Word:**

***Psalm 68 (Adapted from ’Psalms Now’)***

Side 1: We long for the day when God will take over the land, Side 2: when wickedness will be suppressed and selfishness subdued, Together: when people will begin to care for one another.

Side 1: There will be clean air to breathe and pure water to drink Side 2: There will be better schools for the young, hospitals for all who are ill, and jobs for those who seek them

Side 1: Everyone will feel needed and loved – the child the labourer, the executive the senior citizen. Side 2: There will be dignity and freedom and equal rights, no matter our ethnic and economic background.

Side 1: There will be homes to live in and parks to play in. Side 2: There will be libraries and theatres and halls of learning.

Side 1: There will be a place for everyone to live and work and learn and rest and play. Side 2: And people will have time for one another. Together: O how we will praise God in such a land! Our voices will join in a great chorus of celebration. Daily we will offer thanksgiving to our God, who rules over our land. And everyone will have time for one another.

Together: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now and forever shall be world without end. Amen

**Affirming Faith:**

**I believe in God the Father Who created heaven and earth, Source of wisdom and of power, Bringing light and life to birth.**

**I believe in God the Saviour, Son of Man and Lord most high, Crucified to be redeemer, Raised to life that death may die.**

**I believe in God the Spirit, Wind of heaven and flame of fire, Pledge of all that we inherit, Sent to comfort and inspire.**

**Honour, Glory, Might and Merit Be to God and God alone! Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One-in-Three and Three-in-One.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Blessing:**

A blessing on the men and on the women; A blessing on our bodies and our souls; A blessing on our work and our leisure; A blessing on our youth and our maturity; A blessing on the rich and the poor; A blessing on all who cry out to Jesus, May the blessing of God Almighty…. **Amen.**

**Dismissal:** Our harvest worship has ended: **our service to the Lord of the Harvest begins**

**St Columba’s Church, Gleno -**

**Parish of Raloo** **GLENO COMMUNITY HARVEST CELEBRATION**

**Christian Aid Harvest Liturgy**

**THE GATHERING**

O God, you are the one we come to with praise: **You are the one who hears our prayer**

People everywhere come to you weighed down with sin: **Our faults defeat us, but you forgive them**

You have blessed us with your hospitality: **May we be filled with the blessings of your house.**

**Prayer of approach**

God, giver of all life and of our lives: **blessed are you in the fruits of the earth blessed are you in the work of human hands blessed are you in the harvest of human creativity.**

God of the poor and hungry: **blessed are you in the striving for justice blessed are you in the fragility of peace-making blessed are you in the grace of hospitality.**

God of the great feast and the simple meal: **blessed are you in the sowing of seed blessed are you in the breaking of bread blessed are you in the sharing of bread blessed are you in our daily bread.**

**Confession**

Gracious God, because we believe that your mark is abundance, and your love is overflowing, we come before you not in fear, but in the knowledge that we can be redeemed, and ask for a breaking down of all the barriers we create that block your life and love.

*And so we pray:*

For the times we lose sight of your blessings and forget to give thanks for our daily bread and the simple pleasures of sharing food seduced by the false promises of a consumer culture: **Forgive us.**

For the ways we build ever bigger barns and store up our wealth and worry about tomorrow without heeding the needs of the world today: **Forgive us.**

For the things that dull our reactions so that we can read stories of hardship and poverty without feeling moved, provoked or anything very much at all: **Forgive us.**

And in the knowledge that in Jesus our sins are forgiven inspire us with your kind and generous love to build a world where all have enough. **Amen.**

**Absolution:**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirt. **Amen.**

**PSALM 65**

***Together:* You well deserve the praises of your children, O God, and they should fulfil their pledge to you.**

***Side 1:***Everyone must eventually face up to You, and it must be with all our sins and short comings. But those who come in sorrow and repentance shall find you merciful and gracious. You, O Lord, shall forgive their sins and fill their hearts with your love and joy.

***Together:* O God, You reach out to save us. You are the single, eternal hope of all humankind.**

***Side 2:*** You make your power known to us in the majestic grandeur of the mountains, in the thunderous roar of ocean waves. Your abundance is poured out upon us in the grain laden fields, in the flocks and herds and in the meadows, in the gentle rain that caresses the green hills. Your love for us is manifested in your great deliverance on our behalf.

***Together:* You well deserve the praises of your children, O God.**

**RESPONDING IN FAITH** Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist? ***:* We believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again? **We believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world? **We believe and trust in Him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**H**appy are those who have bread to eat! **A**s grain grows in the fields and **R**ains bring the water of life we share **V**isions of all your people united in **E**ternal praise and kneaded together to **S**hare good news of justice and peace: **T**aste and see that the Lord is good!

**Prayers of intercession**

We pray for those who have not been able to gather the harvest because of poor weather, for those who bear the brunt of a changing climate, where rains have become unreliable and the harvest unpredictable. God of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who struggle to get land or have been forced off the land they need to be able to plant and grow enough food, for those who have had to abandon land because of conflict and have had to leave crops un-harvested. God of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your blessing on communities around the world who offer hospitality to refugees and those who are returning home. God of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who still do not get a fair price for the food they grow and sell, and so struggle to make ends meet. We pray for the many women who do so much of the work of harvesting but realise so little of the income and own so little of the land. God of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community and the communities we represent. We pray for the Christian Aid weekend of prayer and action and that through it we might be agents of change, the yeast of justice at work in our society and our world. God of the harvest: **hear our prayer.**

**Christian Aid Harvest prayer The earth is fruitful may we be generous. The earth is fragile may we be gentle. The earth is fractured may we be just. Creating God, harvest in us joy and generosity as we together share in thanks and giving.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**SENDING OUT**

With awesome deeds, with saving justice: **You have answered us, O God our Saviour.**

People all over the world and across the distant seas: **Trust and hope in you.**

Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs: **You make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

May the God who gathers and scatters us as seed give us a harvest of peace sown in justice that everyone may have daily bread, and may the blessing … … … **Amen.**

Go in peace this harvest, to be content with God’s goodness as we seek to love and serve the Lord: **in the name of Christ. Amen**

**ADVENT WREATH**

**The First Sunday in Advent**

We light one candle to remind us of the prophets who believed in God during the dark days and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows but now the light is shining on them.

Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we too may have faith in spite of the darkness of our times and may look forward to the coming of Jesus into our world. Amen.

**The Second Sunday in Advent**

We light one candle to remind us of the prophets, we light the second candle for John the Baptist who called people to change their way of living to prepare for the coming of Christ.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light so that all should hear the message and believe.

Disturbing God, we thank you for the witness of John the Baptist. Help us to be open to the changing power of your love and to be witnesses to the power of Jesus in our lives. Amen.

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, and the third for Mary who gladly responded to the call of God.

I am the Lord’s servant, Mary said; may it happen to me as you have said.

Startling God, we thank you for the joyful obedience of Mary, we ask you to fill us with your grace so that we too may accept your call and rejoice in your salvation.

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, the third for Mary and the fourth for us as we join with them in looking for the coming of Jesus.

God will give you a sign, a young woman who is expecting a child will have a son and will name him Immanuel which means God with us.

Gracious God, as you came to those who have gone before us, you come to us now in Jesus. Help us to recognise you in those around us and to care for our neighbours as we do for ourselves.

**Christmas Day**

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, the third for Mary and the fourth for us. Now the central candle for Jesus, born today. Jesus is the light of the world. Mary gave birth to her first born, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Loving God, we thank you for the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. May we always welcome him into our community, our homes, our hearts and our lives. Amen

**Advent Wreath Pathways**

***Pathway 1 – focusing on a thematic approach***

1. First Sunday in Advent: Waiting in Hope

*First voice:* On this first Sunday in Advent we light this candle and name it Hope. (*Lights first purple candle.)* When we light it, we feel excited. We are looking forward to something special. What can it be? When is it going to happen? When we light this candle, we feel hopeful as we wait in this season.

*Second voice*: This candle reminds us that the prophet Isaiah was longing for God's presence too.

*First voice*: It reminds us that the people in the early church were longing for God's presence too.

*Second voice:* This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us.

We wait in hope for God to surprise us and break into our lives.

*All:* **O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us courage to spread hope in the world. Amen.**

1. Second Sunday in Advent: Comfort and Peace

*First voice*: Today, we light a second candle and name it Peace. (*Lights second purple candle.)* This candle reminds us of our dreams for peace in the world.

*Second voice*: This candle reminds us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and that he is coming.

*First voice*: This candle is a symbol of God's promise of peace, and comfort, and strength.

*All:* **O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us courage to spread peace in the world. Amen.**

1. Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

*First voice:* Today, we light a third candle and name it Joy. (Lights third purple candle/pink candle.) This candle reminds us that God wants us to rejoice, even when that feels hard to do.

*Second voice*: This candle is a symbol of the joy that comes when God is with us.

All: **O God, come, travel with us through Advent.  
Give us courage to spread joy in the world. Amen.**

1. Fourth Sunday in Advent: Grace and Love

*First voice:* Today, we light a fourth candle and name it Love. (Lights last purple candle.) This candle reminds us of Mary, Jesus' mother. She was a person who had a lot of courage. This candle reminds us of a mother's love for her child, Jesus, who was God's own Son.

*Second voice*: This candle is a symbol of God's love that was born in baby Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a symbol of God's love that is alive in us each day too.

*All:*" **O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us courage to spread love in the world. Amen.**

1. Lighting the Christ Candle at Christmas: Fulfillment

*First voice*: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We have lit four candles that remind us about longing and peace and joy and love. These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.

*Second voice:* Today we celebrate that God has come to be with us in the baby called Jesus. Today we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ candle. (Lights white candle.) This candle reminds us of all God has done for us. God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

*All:* **O God, come, lead us through our lives. Give us courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.**

***Pathway 2 – focusing on the biblical build up to the birth of Christ***

1. *Lighting of the First Advent Candle (Patriarchs)*

*Leader*: ‘The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned.’ God of Abraham and Sarah, and of all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray; longing for the Day of Glory, ‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness on that Day.**

1. *Lighting of the Second Advent Candle (Prophets)*

*Leader:* ‘But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.’ *Micah 5:2*

God our Father,you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread this joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear; glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear. Through their message – challenged, shaken – hearts awaken: God is near!**

1. *Lighting of the Third Advent Candle (John the Baptist)*

*Leader:* ’But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.’

God our Father, you gave Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptised into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured, Brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope restored: ‘Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready for the Lord.’**

1. *Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle*

*Parent:* The angel Gabriel said to Mary, ‘’Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus’. Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen**.

**Mary’s gift beyond all telling we recall today: Son of God within her dwelling, born to show the way. Who could guess the final story? – Cross and glory: Easter Day!**

1. *Lighting of the Christmas Day Candle*

*Leader:* Jesus said *‘*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son, and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world. **Amen**.

**Advent Candles tell their story on this Christmas Day. Those who waited for God’s glory: they prepared the way. Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living, here today!**

*Advent Candle Song (Tune: Angle Voices) by Mark Earey (from Sing Praise)*

*– can be used with Pathway 2*

1. **Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray;**

**longing for the Day of Glory, ‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness on that Day.**

1. **Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear;**

**glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear. Through their message – challenged, shaken – hearts awaken: God is near!**

1. **John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured,**

**Brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope restored: ‘Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready for the Lord.’**

1. **Mary’s gift beyond all telling we recall today:**

**Son of God within her dwelling, born to show the way. Who could guess the final story? – Cross and glory: Easter Day!**

1. **Advent Candles tell their story on this Christmas Day.**

**Those who waited for God’s glory: they prepared the way. Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living, here today!**

**Holy Communion in Advent (Times & Seasons)**

*Sentence of Scripture*

A voice cries out in the wilderness,‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’

*Invitation to Confession*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*or*

A voice cries out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’ So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

*or*

‘The axe is laid at the root of the trees;  
every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.’ But confident in God’s mercy we confess our sins.

*Kyrie Confessions*

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation: Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

*Intercessions*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for ...  
Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for ...  
Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for ...  
Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember ...  
Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you,  
that with *[N and]* all your saints and angels  
we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*or*

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God’s coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Introductions to the Peace*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*or*

God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

*or*

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*or*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

*Prayers at the Preparation of the Table*

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one, so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom. **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine; she has set her table. **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

*or*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

*or*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

*Prefaces*

And now we give you thanks  
because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us inheritors of everlasting life;  
that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

*or*

And now we give you thanks because when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago  
and opened for us the way of salvation.  
So now we watch for the day,  
knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

*or*

And now we give you thanks  
because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour.

*or*

And now we give you thanks  
because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel,  
conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race.

*or*

And now we give you thanks  
because in his coming the day of our deliverance has dawned; and through him you will make all things new,  
as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world.

*Extended Prefaces*

*(from the first Sunday of Advent to until 16 Dec)*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

*(from 17 Dec until Christmas Eve)*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and saying:

*Blessings*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing ...

*or*

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing ...

*or*

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.** And the blessing ...

*or*

May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.** And the blessing …

*Dismissal*

Our Lord says, ‘I am coming soon.’ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

**A CAROL SERVICE FOR ADVENT SUNDAY**

Processional Hymn 119 Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Hyfrydol)

Bidding Prayer

In the beginning of creation, when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void. Darkness was over the face of the deep, and a mighty wind swept over the waters. God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light. **God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from darkness.**

When all things began, the Word already was. The Word dwelt with God, and what God was, the Word was. Through time all things came to be; no single thing was created without him. All that came to be was alive with his life, and that life was the light of the world. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**

Prepare the way of the Lord; **Make a path for our God in the Desert.**

Each Valley shall be exalted; **Every mountain and hill be laid low**.

The crooked shall become straight; **Rough Places shall become plain.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; **All people shall see it together.**

This is the promise of the Lord; **God’s promise shall be fulfilled.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Reading 1 Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

**Hymn 129** How lovely on the mountains

**Reading 2 Isaiah 52:7-10** How beautiful on the mountains

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.

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.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymn 134** Make way, make way, for Christ the King

**Reading 3 Psalm 36:5-10** In God’s light we see light

**An Advent Litany**

Among the poor, among the proud among the persecuted, among the privileged, Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**

In the private house, in the market place, in the wedding feast, in the judgement hall, Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**

With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love, Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the humble might be raised, Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**

Within us, without us, among us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time, Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**

**Anthem Hark, the glad sound!**  David Thorne (b. 1950)

**Reading 4 Isaiah 40:1-11** A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord

**Pinning our hopes on Jesus - An Advent Intercession**

We bless you, our God, mighty sovereign, power, gentle caring mother. You do not forget your children. We bless you our God, for your great gifts to us: creation—fragile and fascinating, Scripture—revealing your truth. You bless us with your forgiving love, with the vision of your kingdom, shedding light in our darkness. Bless us and disturb us O God with that vision of your kingdom and as we voice our hopes to you now, may they strengthen us, reassure us and move us We pray for those caught up in wars around the world; soldiers, refugees and those who hold fast to the reasons for the fighting

(Silence)

We pray for homeless folk excluded from what the rest of us are doing, cold, struggling to keep a hold of who they are

(Silence)

We pray for folk who are ill, coping with pain, fearing the worst, and for those in the NHS who worry for the future

(Silence)

We pray for those folk struggling in relationships, especially at this ‘family time’, when the cracks are kept just below the surface And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now for ….

(Silence)

 Into the mess of this world a fragile child will come - yelling in the night for his mother, needing milk and clean linen. We pin our hopes on you, little baby, our God - pushed out into the world, through pain and into poverty. Our God is with us and our hope is re-born. **Amen**

**Hymn 128** Hills of the north, rejoice

**Reading 5 Luke 12:35-40** Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning

**Hymn 127**  Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing

**Reading 6 John 3:16-21** I am the light of the world

**Collection Hymn 135** O come, O come, Emmanuel omit v4 & 5

**Blessing**

The desert will sing and rejoice **and the wilderness blossom with flowers.**

All will see the Lord’s splendour, **see the Lord’s greatness and power.**

Tell everyone who is anxious: **‘Be strong and don’t be afraid.’**

The blind will be able to see; **the deaf will be able to hear;**

the lame will leap and dance, **those who can’t speak will shout.**

They will hammer their swords into ploughs; **they will turn spears into pruning-knives.**

The nations will live in peace; **no more will they train for war.**

This is the promise of God. **God’s promise will be fulfilled.**

**An Advent Blessing**

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb, **Give us your benediction, your good word for our souls that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your company. Amen**

**Recessional Hymn 126** Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Reading 1

The people walking in darkness   
       have seen a great light;   
       on those living in the land of the shadow of death   
       a light has dawned.

 You have enlarged the nation   
       and increased their joy;   
       they rejoice before you   
       as people rejoice at the harvest,   
       as men rejoice   
       when dividing the plunder.

For to us a child is born,   
       to us a son is given,   
       and the government will be on his shoulders.   
       And he will be called   
       Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,   
       Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

 Of the increase of his government and peace   
       there will be no end.   
       He will reign on David's throne   
       and over his kingdom,   
       establishing and upholding it   
       with justice and righteousness   
       from that time on and forever.   
       The zeal of the LORD Almighty   
       will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord

Reading 2

How beautiful on the mountains   
       are the feet of those who bring good news,   
       who proclaim peace,   
       who bring good tidings,   
       who proclaim salvation,   
       who say to Zion,   
       "Your God reigns!"

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;   
       together they shout for joy.   
       When the LORD returns to Zion,   
       they will see it with their own eyes.

Burst into songs of joy together,   
       you ruins of Jerusalem,   
       for the LORD has comforted his people,   
       he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm   
       in the sight of all the nations,   
       and all the ends of the earth will see   
       the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord

Reading 3

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,   
       your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,   
       your justice like the great deep.   
       O LORD, you preserve both man and beast.

How priceless is your unfailing love!   
       Both high and low among men   
       find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house;   
       you give them drink from your river of delights.

 For with you is the fountain of life;   
       in your light we see light.

 Continue your love to those who know you,   
       your righteousness to the upright in heart.

This is the word of the Lord

Reading 4

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,   
       and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed,   
       that her sin has been paid for,   
       that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

 A voice of one calling:   
       "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;   
       make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;   
       the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,   
       and all mankind together will see it.   
       For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"   
       "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,   
       because the breath of the LORD blows on them.   
       Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,   
       but the word of our God stands forever."

You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.   
       You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,  
       lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;   
       say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.   
       See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

 He tends his flock like a shepherd:   
       He gathers the lambs in his arms   
       and carries them close to his heart;   
       he gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord

Reading 5

Jesus said, "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.

I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

This is the word of the Lord

Reading 6

Jesus said, "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.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

This is the word of the Lord

**A Simple Service of Taize for Advent**

*Opening Chant: Wait for the Lord*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

*Introduction*

Watch at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

*Opening Prayer*

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Chant: Our darkness*

**Our darkness is never darkness in your sight: the deepest night is clear as the day light.**

*Scripture Reading: Psalm 24:7-10*

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

*Chant: O Lord, hear my prayer*

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

*Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31*

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.   
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.   
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;   
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

*Chant: My soul is at rest*

**My soul is at rest in God alone, my salvation comes from God.**

*Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11-12*

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light

*Silence*

*Intercessions*

**[R] O Christe Domine Jesu**

Jesus Christ, you came to transfigure us in the image of your Father and our Father: open for us the gates of your kingdom. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, Light of our hearts, you know how thirsty we are: open for us the gates of your kingdom. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, Light of the world, you shine for us all: enable us to discern your presence in every human being. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, beloved Son of the Father: inspire in us a love that is self-giving. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, source of life, rest for the weary: open for us all the gates of praise. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, friend of the poor: open in us the gates of simplicity to welcome you. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, presence of the living God, through your Church you prepare your way for others: open for all the gates of your kingdom. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, source of peace: bring us peace of heart and peace in the world. **[R]**

Jesus Christ, so much greater than our hearts: in you the road to the Kingdom opens up for us. **[R]**

*Lord’s Prayer*

*Chant: Bless the Lord, my soul*

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

*Advent Collect*

Almighty God,   
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness   
and to put on the armour of light   
now in the time of this mortal life   
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;   
that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty   
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;   
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,   
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*An Evening Collect*

Abide with us Lord, for it is evening, and the day is drawing to a close. Abide with us and with your whole Church, in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world; abide with us and with all your faithful ones, O Lord, in time and in eternity. **Amen**.

*Chant: Stay with us*

**Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall. then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.**

*Dismissal*

In peace, we will lie down and sleep; **For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus, **For the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night-watch looks for the morning, **So do we look for you, O Christ**.

The Lord bless and watch over us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

# 

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN 119 – Come, thou long expected Jesus

Christ has brought us out of darkness: **to live in his marvellous light.** Jesus Christ is the light of the world; **Jesus is our Way.** With Jesus even dark places are light; **Jesus is the Truth. I**n Jesus we shall live for ever: **Jesus is our Life.** Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**BIDDING PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER**

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

# HYMN 134 – Make way, make way

# 

**Isaiah 60:1-3, 17-20**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Mid'ian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebai'oth shall minister to you; I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

# HYMN 189 – As with gladness men of old

**LUKE 2: 8-14**

And in that 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, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to 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 babe 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 men with whom he is pleased!"

## HYMN 152 – Come and join the celebration

### AFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.**

### Invitation to Confession

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.

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child,

we open our hearts in penitence and faith:

You were born for our salvation.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

### Prayer of Penitence

**Father God, we are sorry for the things we do and say and think**

**which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves.**

**Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people**

**more and more. Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ our Lord: for he was the word before all creation. Through him all things come to be, not one thing has its being but through him. Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

His life is the light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness cannot overpower. Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

The Word was the true light coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

He came to his own, and they did not accept him. But to all who accept him, he gives power to become children of God. Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

To God our creator, born as one of us, be all praise and glory. with all the company of heaven we worship, saying: **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come; to him be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE ADVENT COLLECTS**

# HYMN 178 – Round orange, you serve as a sign

**ADDRESS**

**DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTINGLES**

Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world, that all may believe in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

By the shedding of Christ’s blood, we are redeemed: **Praise to Christ our Saviour!**

In Christ’s death is our life: **Praise to Christ our Saviour!**

# COLLECTION HYMN 165 – It’s rounded like an orange

**BLESSING**

May God the Father keep you in all your days.

May God the Son shield you in all your ways.

May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you

and pour upon you blessing and light. **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

God shines in your hearts: **Praise to Christ our light!**

Christ is the light of the world! **Praise to Christ our light!**

Go, in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others: **Praise to Christ our light!**

You have heard his story,

the story of God's own Son.

**Amen. We thank you Lord.**

May he fill you with joy

to bring this good news to others today.

**Amen. We thank you Lord.**

# 

# RECESSIONAL HYMN 132 – Lo! he comes with clouds descending

***AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CHRISTINGLE***

***Explanation of the Christingle Service***

*The Service of the Christingles comes from Germany, and was popular within the Moravian Church for many centuries. In recent years it has become a popular service in many different churches, including our own, held on the last Sunday before Christmas.*

*The symbolism of the orange and the candle is simple, yet powerful, as one*

*of the songs we will sing later reminds us.*

*The* ***orange*** *represents God’s world, the* ***cocktail sticks*** *represent the continents, and the different*

***coloured sweets*** *(or sometimes pieces of fruit) represent all the peoples of*

*the world.* ***The candle*** *stands for Jesus, the Light of the World, who was*

*born in the candle-lit stable of Bethlehem.*

***The red ribbon*** *reminds us why he was born, and how he is God’s Light, because the red of the ribbon points to Jesus’ death upon the cross of Calvary, 33 years after his birth.*

*Finally, there is a symbolism in the lighting of the candles, and carrying the*

*Christingles home for Christmas, because the love of Christ is meant to be*

*shared, starting among God’s people, and then going out into our*

*community, and around the world.*

*There is a further important aspect to the Christingle Service. Christmas is never just about the gifts we receive, from God or from others, it is about what we give to God and others less well off than ourselves. Once again we are gathering our Smartie Boxes filled with 20p coins. From this collection we shall bring the love and care of the Christ Child, as we raise the funds for the Planting of trees as our Christmas gift to places in threat of flood and soil erosion across the world.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people:

For unto you is born in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. *(St Luke 2. 10-11)*

**Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn- O come all ye faithful***

**LIGHTING of the 4th ADVENT CANDLE**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. (*Kneel)*

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**

**We have sinned against you and against our neighbours,**

**In what we have thought, in what we have said and done,**

**Through ignorance, through weakness,**

**through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past;**

**and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of the Light. Amen.**

**ABSOLUTION** (*All Stand)*

With love and compassion:

**Come Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy:

**Come Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory:

**Come Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth:

**Come Lord Jesus.**

**Hymn - Once in Royal David’s city**

**Reading: Luke 1: 26-35** *(The Angel surprises Mary)*

**Hymn – Mary’s boy child**

**Reading: Luke 2 : 1-7** *(The Birth of Jesus)*

**Hymn - See Him lying on a bed of straw:**

**Reading: Luke 2: 8-16** *(The Shepherds find the Christ child)*

**Hymn -** *Away in a manger*

**PRAYERS FOR THE COMING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*Let us pray*

The light Jesus gives we often darken.

Lord, we bring before you our world,

Look upon it with mercy,

Forgive us our lack of love for each other,

the barriers we build, the cruelty we show.

Forgive us, too, when we cut off the light of your

love from another person,

either on purpose or through carelessness. **Amen.**

*Jesus is the light of the minds that know him.*

Father, we thank you for creating us so that we can know you.

Bless all who teach in our schools and guide them in their teaching.

Bless all who learn in our schools and help them to use their opportunities well.

Bless all who are disabled and find it difficult to learn;

help them towards independence and

to discover your purpose in their lives. **Amen.**

*People need the love of other human beings. Adults say* :

**Heavenly Father, creator of all things,**

**you call us to share in the work of your creation.**

**Thank you for the children of our Church.**

**Bless their homes so that they may be places**

**of love, security and truth.**

**May these children grow up to know and love**

**you in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Children say:*

**Father God, we thank you for our homes,**

**for a bed to sleep in, for food to eat and**

**for the care and love of our parents.**

**Be with all those whose families need**

**help or who have no families at all.**

**Help all who care for children and teenagers to show your love for them.**

**Amen.**

People need the love of God.

**ALL: Holy Spirit, in your glory come into**

**our hearts and set them on fire with love for Jesus. Amen.**

**THE FIRST CHRISTINGLE IS LIT AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world. A town that stands upon a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under a meal tub, but on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.”

**We, like the lamp, will shed our light among people, so that, when they see the good we do, they may give praise to our Father in Heaven.**

**Jesus is the light of the world and the light of our lives.**

*The Christingle candles will be given out.*

*ALL STAND (HOLDING CHRISTINGLES)*

*From the first Christingle, all the other christingle candles are lit through the church, by people turning to light the candle of the person standing beside them. This is done during the singing of “O Round is the World:*

**Hymn - O round is the World** (*Tune: Streets of Laredo)*

O round as the world is the orange you give us!

And happy are they who to Jesus belong:

So let the world know, as we join in Christingle,

That Jesus, the Hope of the World, is our song.

O bright is the flame of the candle you giveus!

And happy are they who to Jesus belong:

So let the world know, as we join in Christingle,

That Jesus, the Light of the World, is our song.

Go northward or southward, go eastward or westward,

How happy are they who to Jesus belong!

So let the world know, as they join in Christingle,

That Jesus, the Peace of the World, is our song.

When homeward we go, we must take Jesus with us,

For happy are they who to Jesus belong:

So let the world know, as we join in Christingle,

That Jesus, the Saviour of all, is our song.

**Blow candles out at the end of the Carol, to light again on Christmas morning.**

**COLLECT**

God our redeemer,

who prepared Mary

to be the mother of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,

so may we be ready to greet him when he comes as our judge;

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever. Amen.

**PRAYES OF INTERCESSION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

Go in Peace:

the Wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor guide you,

the Strength of the Mighty God defend you,

the Love of the Everlasting Father enfold you,

the Peace of the Prince of Peace be upon you,

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn - Hark! the herald-angels sing**

**A Christingle Service**

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*Prayer of Preparation*

God our Father, grant us the light of Christ, that we may shine with his love, be prompt to serve, and ever eager to follow in his steps, who is the true light and source of life. **Amen.**

*Processional Hymn: Fling wide the gates*

*Lighting of the Second Advent Candle*

*Leader:* ‘But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.’ *Micah 5:2*

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread this joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear; glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear Through their message – challenged, shaken – hearts awaken: God is near!**

*Introduction*

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and offer to God our thanksgiving and song

*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.Let us pray.

**Father God,**

**we are sorry for the things we do and say and think which make you sad,**

**and for not thinking of others before ourselves.**

**Please forgive us,**

**and help us to love you and other people more and more. Amen.**

*Absolution*

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Acclamations (Stand)*

Today we remember Jesus coming into our world: **Jesus is our King.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world; **Jesus is our Way**.

With Jesus even dark places are light; **Jesus is the Truth**.

In Jesus we shall live for ever: **Jesus is our Life**.

*Hymn 113: There is singing in the desert*

*Collect (2nd Sunday of Advent)*

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: Give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that when he comes again,   we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;   through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 – the coming Saviour*

Those people lived in darkness. But they will see a great light. Those people lived in a place as dark as the place of death. But the “Great Light” will shine on them. This will happen when the special child is born. God will give a son to us. This son will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be “Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.” Power and peace will be in his kingdom. It will continue to grow for this king from David’s family. This king will use goodness and fair judgment to rule the kingdom forever and ever. The Lord All-Powerful has a strong love for his people. And this strong love will cause him to do these things.

Christ has brought us out of darkness **to live in his marvellous light.**

*Psalm 27:1-9 – a prayer of praise*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid. When evil people attack me and try to kill me, they stumble and fall. Even if a whole army surrounds me, I will not be afraid;

even if enemies attack me, I will still trust God.

**I have asked the Lord for one thing; one thing only do I want; to live in the Lord’s house all my life, to marvel there at his goodness, and to ask for his guidance.**

In times of trouble he will shelter me; he will keep me safe in his temple; mad make me secure on a high rock. So I will triumph over my enemies around me. With shouts of joy I will offer sacrifices in his Temple; I will sing, I will praise the Lord. **Hear me Lord, when I call to you! Be merciful, and answer me.**

*Second Reading: Matthew 4:13-17 – Jesus, the light of the world*

But instead of staying in Nazareth, Jesus moved to Capernaum. This town was beside Lake Galilee in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. So God's promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said,

"Listen, lands of Zebulun and Naphtali, lands along the road to the sea and east of the Jordan! Listen Galilee, land of the Gentiles!

Although your people live in darkness, they will see a bright light. Although they live in the shadow of death, a light will shine on them." Then Jesus started preaching, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

Christ has brought us out of darkness **to live in his marvelous light.**

*Hymn 178: Round orange, round orange*

*Talk*

*Hymn: This little light of mine*

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith* 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.**

*Prayers of the People,*

*including a prayer activity and ending with the Lord’s Prayer*

**God our Father, as we prepare for Christmas help us to know your love for us. You loved the world so much that you gave us Jesus, born in Bethlehem, announced by the angels, welcomed by shepherds. Help us to walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*Collection Hymn 165: It’s rounded like an orange*

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘You are the Light of the world. A town that stands on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is put on a stand where it gives light to everyone in the house.’ We, like the lamp, will shed our light, so that when they see the good we do, they may give praise to our Father in heaven. Jesus is the light of the world and the light of our lives.

Father of lights,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift: We ask you to bless these Christingles, and may they be to us symbols of your love for all the world.  
Keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world,  
that all may believe in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

DISMISSAL

*Blessing* Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Hymn 195: Lord, the light of your love is shining*

*Dismissal Prayer* God shines in your hearts:   
**Praise to Christ our light!**

Christ is the light of the world!  
**Praise to Christ our light!**

Go, in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others:  
**Praise to Christ our light!**

**The Jesse Tree**

PREPARATION

*Prayer of Preparation*

Sovereign God, today we are reminded through the Jesse Tree of how, through the lives of the patriarchs, prophets and men and women of faith, you brought challenge as well as promise, a message that disturbed as well as delighted that unsettled as much as uplifted. Help us now as we worship, and each day as we strive to follow Jesus, to be open to your voice, which confronts us with the challenge of the gospel. However demanding it may be, teach us to hear, to listen and to respond, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Processional Hymn 134: Make way, make way for Christ the King*

*Welcome & Greeting*

*Lighting of the Advent Candle*

Christ has brought us out of darkness:  
**to live in his marvellous light.**

*Penitence*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: ‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save people from their sins.’ Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world. Lord of grace and truth, We confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned: **forgive us 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 us 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 us and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned: **forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned: **forgive us and heal us.**

*Absolution*

May the God of al healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins that you may behold the lorry of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Acclamations (Stand)*

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

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.**

*Hymn 166: Joy to the world*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*Bible Reading: Isaiah 11:1-6 – a Saviour from Jesse’s family*

*Hymn 149: Away in a manger*

*The Jesse Tree Introduction*

*1st Symbol – Adam and Eve – creation*

*2nd Symbol – Noah – the flood*

*3rd Symbol – Abraham and Sarah – the promise*

*Hymn 147: Angels from the realms of glory*

*4th Symbol - Joseph – God’s providence*

*5th Symbol – Moses – God’s leadership*

*6th Symbol – Josiah – the centrality of God’s word*

*Hymn: The Calypso Carol*

*7th Symbol - Isaiah – the call to holiness*

*8th Symbol – John the Baptist – the call to repentance*

*9th Symbol – Mary – hope for the future*

*10th Symbol – Jesus & Conclusion – the birth of the Messiah*

*Hymn 170: Love came down at Christmas*

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist? **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again? **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God, and makes Christ known in the world? **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Prayers of the People*

*Collection Hymn 174: O little town of Bethlehem*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Blessing*

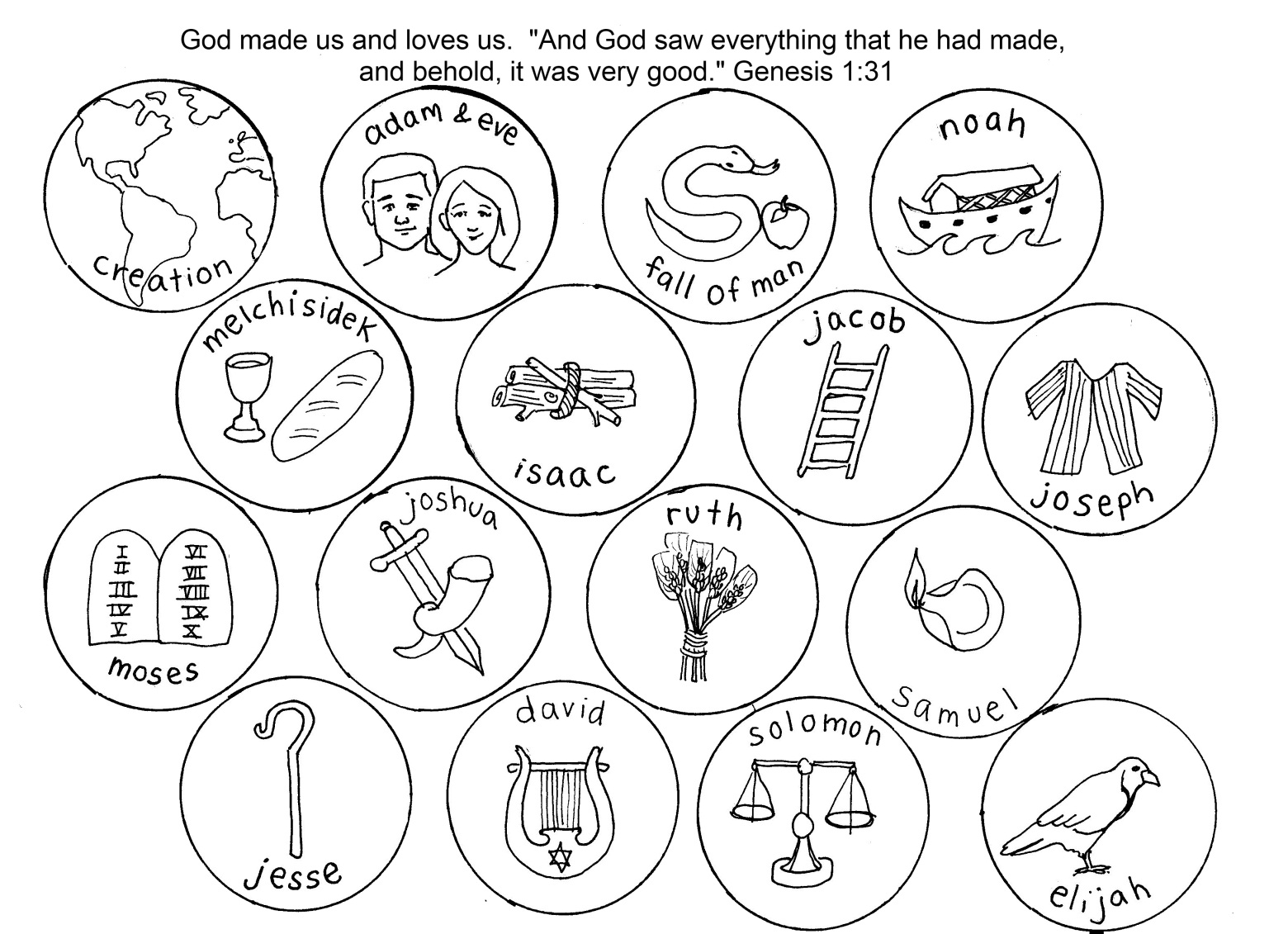
Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from your path, and bring gladness to your heart, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

*Recessional Hymn 167: Long ago and far away*

*Dismissal*

We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory. **Amen.**

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

****

**A Blessing of the Crib Service**

GATHERING

*Prayer of Preparation*

May the glory of God be with us now. **Glory to God in heaven, and peace to all people on earth.**

May the peace of God be with us now. **Glory to God in heaven, and peace to all people on earth.**

May all people worship God with us now. **Glory to God in heaven, and peace to all people on earth.**

*Hymn 147: Angels from the realms of glory*

*Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle*

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, ‘’Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus’. Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen**.

**Mary’s gift beyond all telling we recall today: Son of God within her dwelling, born to show the way. Who could guess the final story? – Cross and glory: Easter Day!**

*Sentence of Scripture*

Christ has brought us out of darkness:  
**to live in his marvellous light.**

*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.Let us pray.

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.**

*Absolution* May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sinsthat you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Acclamations (Stand)*

With Mary let my hearty rejoice, and praise God’s holy name – **his saving power from first to last, from age to age the same!**

How strong his arm, how great his power, the proud he will disown; **the meek and humble he exalts to share his glorious throne.**

The rich our God will send away and feed the hungry poor; **the arms of love remain outstretched to mercy’s open door.**

O shall God’s promise be fulfilled, to Israel firmly made: **a child is born, a Son is given whose crown will never fade**.

*Hymn 152: Come and join the celebration*

*Collect (4th Sunday of Advent)*

God our redeemer, who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary   
to be the mother of your Son:   
Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,   
so we may be ready to greet him   
when he comes again as our judge;   
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,   
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a – the promise of a coming King*

*Hymn 133: Long ago, prophets knew*

*Second Reading: Matthew 1:18-24 – an angel tells Joseph about Jesus*

*A Simple Nativity*

*Talk*

*Hymn: The Virgin Mary had a baby boy*

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith (Stand)*

Let us affirm our faith in the Word made flesh, in the words of St John.

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; Without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of us all. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of he One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*Blessing of the Crib*

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come and worship the Lord: **for a great light has shone on the earth.**

Hear the words of St John:

God’s love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the word so that we could have life through him. **Thanks be to God.**

*The figures for the crib are brought forward*

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory. God our Father, at this time your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate 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 reign for ever. **Amen.**

*The Children of the Sunday School will sing Away in a Manger*

*Prayers of the People*

*As each of the prayers are offered a symbol of each prayer is placed in the crib*

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour. Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, Give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

And together we pray:

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, You share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

**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 177: Once in Royal David’s city*

**Cloth for the Cradle Service (adapted from Iona Community)**

GATHERING

*Prayer of Preparation*

Almighty God, we recall at this joyful season how, through her willingness to hear your word and commit herself in your service, you were able to use Mary to fulfil your purpose, entering our world, and transforming our lives. Help us, then, as we gather now to worship, to hear your word and to respond with similar obedience. Through our discipleship, may your grace be revealed, your love shown and your world enriched. **Amen.**

*Hymn 147: Angels from the realms of glory*

*Leader:* The angel Gabriel said to Mary, ‘’Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus’. Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. **Amen**.

Christ has brought us out of darkness:  
**to live in his marvellous light.**

*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.Let us pray.

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.**

*Absolution* May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sinsthat you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Acclamations (Stand)*

With Mary let my hearty rejoice, and praise God’s holy name – **his saving power from first to last, from age to age the same!**

How strong his arm, how great his power, the proud he will disown; **the meek and humble he exalts to share his glorious throne.**

The rich our God will send away and feed the hungry poor; **the arms of love remain outstretched to mercy’s open door.**

O shall God’s promise be fulfilled, to Israel firmly made: **a child is born, a Son is given whose crown will never fade**.

*Hymn 152: Come and join the celebration*

*Collect (4th Sunday of Advent)*

God our redeemer,   
who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary   
to be the mother of your Son:   
Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,   
so we may be ready to greet him   
when he comes again as our judge;   
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,   
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a – the promise of a coming King*

*Psalm 80:1-4 – a prayer asking for God’s help*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,   
**you that led Joseph like a flock;**  
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,   
**before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh**.  
Stir up your mighty strength   
**and come to our salvation.**Turn us again, O God;   
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved**.

*Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10 – Christ’s sacrifice, once, for all*

*Hymn: Celebrate the Child*

*Third Reading: Luke 1:39-45 – Mary meets Elizabeth*

*The Christmas Story will be told by the Sunday School, followed by the children singing ‘Go tell it on the mountains*

*Address – ‘Cloth for the Cradle’*

*Reflection on ‘Cloth for the Cradle’*

RESPONSE

*The congregation are invited to use their piece of cloth to help prepare the cradle.*

*Hymn: Cloth for the Cradle (sung seated)*

***Cloth for the cradle, cradle for the child, the child for our every joy and sorrow find him a shawl that’s woven by us all to welcome the Lord of each tomorrow.***

1. **Darkness and light and all that’s known by sight,**

**silence and echo fading, weave into one a welcome for the Son, set earth its own maker serenading.**

1. **Hungry and poor, the sick and the unsure,**

**wealthy whose needs are stranger, weave into one a welcome for the Son, leave excess and want beneath the manger.**

1. **Claimant and queen, wage earners in between**

**trader and traveling preacher, weave into one a welcome for the Son, whose word brings new life to every creature.**

1. **Wrinkled or fair, carefree or full of care,**

**searchers of all the ages, weave into one a welcome for the Son, the Saviour of shepherds and of sages.**

*Iona Community*

*Prayer*

**Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus. just as our hands have made it ready, so make our hearts ready to love and to welcome you. Be born again, not in a manger, but in us. Make us your Bethlehem, where God is personal, and all things and all people are made new. Amen.**

*Affirmation of Faith (Stand)*

Let us affirm our faith in the Word made flesh, in the words of St John.

**In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God, And the Word was God. Through him all things were made; Without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of us all. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of he One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*Blessing of the Crib*

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come and worship the Lord: **for a great light has shone on the earth.**

Hear the words of the book of Wisdom: When peaceful silence lay over all and night was in the midst of her swift course, from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens leapt your almighty Word.

Hear also the words of St John: God’s love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the word so that we could have life through him. **Thanks be to God.**

*The figures for the crib are brought forward*

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, and that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, at this time your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate 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 reign for ever. **Amen.**

*Lord’s Prayer*

*Hymn 149: Away in a manger*

*A Reflective Prayer from the Iona Community*

Let us pray.

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came. You crept in beside us. And no-one knew. Only the few who dared believe that God might do something different. Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord ? Will you come into the darkness of today’s world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end, or that food will come, or that a government will change, or that the Church cares? Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair? Will you come into the quietness of Portrush, not the friendly quietness as when a friends hold hands, but the fearful silence, when the phone has not rung the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor’s face says it all? Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people. And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives? We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden, or want to be, but because our lives long to be vulnerable to you as you were to us, wearing no more than nappies and trusting human hands to hold their maker. Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different? When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came. You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the same this Christmas. **Amen.**

*Collection Hymn 160: Hark the herald-angels sing*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Blessing*

The eagerness of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas-tide: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Hymn 102: Name of all majesty*

*Dismissal*

God sent his angels from glory to bring to the shepherds the good news of Jesus’ birth. **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

You have heard his story, the story of God’s only Son. **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

May he fill you with joy to bring this good news to others today. **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

**Patterns of Readings for a Carol Service**

**Sequence 1: Good news for the poor**

*These readings are also suitable for Christmas Eve.*

1 Micah 5.2-4 Bethlehem, from you shall come forth a ruler

Psalm 89.1-4

2 Isaiah 35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

Psalm 126

3 Haggai 2.5b-9 I will fill this house with splendour

*or* Jeremiah 22.13-16; 23.5,6 Your Father judged the cause of the poor

Psalm 96.7-12

4 Isaiah 11.1-9 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse

Psalm 132.10-16

5 Isaiah 52.7-10 How beautiful on the mountains

*or* Isaiah 40.1-11 A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord

Psalm 85.8-13

6 Philippians 2.5-11 He took the form of a servant

Canticle Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

Gospel *In Advent* Luke 1.26-38 The Annunciation

*At Christmas* Luke 2.1-20 The birth of Jesus

**The Gospel of Luke**

*In Christmastide, Readings 1 and 4 might be omitted. This pattern of readings might*

*also be used before Christmas, when Readings 6 and 7 (and possibly 5) might be*

*omitted. But there is virtue in reading the whole infancy narrative with hymns, songs*

*and canticles interspersed.*

1 Luke 1.5-25 The Annunciation to Zechariah

2 Luke 1.26-38 The Annunciation to Mary

3 Luke 1.39-56 The visit of Mary to Elizabeth

*or* 39-49 *if the Magnificat is used as a canticle*

4 Luke 1.57-80 The birth of John

*or* 57-67 *if the Benedictus is used as a canticle*

5 Luke 2.1-7 The birth of Jesus

6 Luke 2.8-20 The shepherds

7 Luke 2.22-40 The Presentation in the Temple

*or* 22-28 *if theNunc dimittis is used as a canticle*

8 Titus 2.11-14, & 3.3-7 The Grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all

**Christmas Eve – traditional pattern from King’s College, Cambridge**

*This pattern is traditionally introduced by the Bidding Prayer on page 88.*

1 Genesis 3.8-14 The Fall

2 Genesis 22.1-19 The promise to Abraham

*or* 22.15-18

3 Isaiah 9.2,6,7 The prophecy of the Messiah’s birth

4 Isaiah 11.1-9 The prophecy of the Messiah’s kingdom of peace

*or* Micah 5.2-4 The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

5 Luke 1.26-38 The Annunciation to Mary

*or* Isaiah 60.1-6,19 The coming of the glory of the Lord

6 Matthew 1.18-23 The birth of Emmanuel

*or* Luke 2.1-7 The birth of Jesus

7 Luke 2.8-16 The shepherds go to the manger

8 Matthew 2.1-11 The magi are led by the star to Jesus

# 9 John 1.1-14 The Incarnation of the Word of God

**An Order for the First Communion of Christmas**

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

‘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.**

*Processional Hymn 172: O come, all ye faithful*

*The placing of the Christ-child in the Crib*

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory. God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate 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.**

*Collect for purity*

**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.**

*Penitence*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

*Invitation to Confession*

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.*

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 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*

1. **Glory be to God in heaven,**

**songs of joy and peace we bring, thankful hearts and voices raising, to creation’s Lord we sing: Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you, glory be to God our King.**

1. **Lamb of God, who on your shoulders**

**bore the load of this world’s sin, only Son of God the Father, you have brought us peace within Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy now your gracious reign begin.**

1. **You, O Son of God, are holy,**

**you we praise with one accord; none in heaven or earth is like you, only you are Christ the Lord, with the Father and the Spirit ever worshipped and adored.** *Michael Perry (Tune Cwm Rhondda)*

*The Collect (The Nativity of our Lord - Night)*

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever. Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

***First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 – the promise of a coming king***

*Psalm 98 – a psalm of praise (setting from Singing Psalms, Alison Cadden & Peter Thompson)*

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.**

1. His own right hand and his holy arm

have won him the victory.

1. The Lord has made known his salvation;

his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

1. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel,

and the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.**

1. Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;

break into singing and make music.

1. Make music to the Lord with the lyre,

with the lyre and voice of melody.

1. With trumpets and the sound of the horn

sound praises before the Lord, the King.

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.**

1. Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,

the world and all that dwell upon it.

1. Let the rivers clap their hands

and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

1. In righteousness shall he judge the world

and the peoples with equity.

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.**

*Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4 – God has spoken by his Son*

*Gradual Hymn 182: Silent Night*

*Gospel: John 1:1-14 – the Word became flesh (Stand)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Address*

*Nicene Creed (Stand)* **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The Prayers of the People*

Let us pray.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human form. Renew your Church as the body of Christ. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison** (sung response tr. Lord, have mercy)

In this holy night Christians the world over are celebrating his birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night 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. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain and distress today. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ’s redemption. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night the angels sang ‘Peace to God’s people on earth.’ Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our world. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night strangers found the holy family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Unite us in worship with all who have gone through death in the hope of heaven. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison**

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

*The Peace (Stand)*

This holy night the angels sang, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all on whom he delights.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you**

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

*Offertory Hymn 174: O Little town of Bethlehem*

*At the Preparation of the Table*

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

*The Taking of the Bread and Wine*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us **therefore let us celebrate the feast**.

*The Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise: **Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord, in pow’r, might and wisdom for ever adored! The earth and the heavens are full of your love; our joyful hosannas re-echo above. Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is he whose life makes us whole and whose death sets us free: who comes in the name of the Father of light, let endless hosannas resound in the height!** *(Tune: Slane)*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world:

he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again. On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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. Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer (Kneel)*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **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.**

***The Breaking of the Bread*** We break this 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.**

*Agnus Dei*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

*The Communion*

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

*After Communion* *the Great Silence is observed.*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Post Communion Prayers*

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again  
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
**To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

*Blessing*

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love 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 of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

*Recessional Hymn 188: While Shepherds watched*

*Dismissal*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh. **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

**A Simple Liturgy for All Age Worship on Christmas Morning**

*PREPARATION*

Jesus is born, **and we celebrate the good news.** Jesus is born, **and we come to worship him.**

*Lighting of the Christmas Day Candle*

*Parent:* Jesus said *‘*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’ God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son, and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world. **Amen**.

**Advent Candles tell their story on this Christmas Day. Those who waited for God’s glory: they prepared the way. Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living, here today!**

*The placing of the Christ-figure in the Crib*

Hear the words of St. Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

He is Christ the Lord. **We worship and adore him. Alleluia!**

*Hymn 152: Come and join the celebration*

*Confession*

**Forgive us Lord, for being too wrapped up in the busyness of Christmas.  
Forgive us Lord, for being too wrapped up in the wrappings.  
Forgive us Lord, for being too wrapped up in presents.  
Forgive us Lord, for not being wrapped up in you.**

*The Christmas Collect*

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*Reading***:** *Luke 2:6-16 - The Birth of Jesus*

*Talk*

RESPONSE

*Collection Hymn 149: Away in a manger*

*The Prayers conclude with the Lord’s Prayer and Blessing*

DISMISSAL

*Closing Prayer*

**Loving Father, give us the excitement of the shepherds as they dashed to see Jesus.  
Give us the joy of the angels as they announced Jesus’ coming.  
Give us the faith of Mary and Joseph as they fulfilled your plans.  
May we enjoy the coming of Jesus today and everyday.** **Amen**.

**A SERVICE FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Hymn 177 Once in Royal David’s city**

A boy has been born for us; **A Child has been given to us.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace. Once we were no people; **Now we are God’s people.**

Once we walked in darkness; **Now we have seen a great light.**

**Christmas Intercessions** *(sit or kneel)*

In the face of the Gospel, let us ask God for a good Christmas: that no powerful nation should tax the poor or uproot them; that no unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace; that no door will be shut on those who need to find it open; that shepherds and sheep and all of nature need not be afraid; that barbed wire and angry soldiers may not be found in Bethlehem; that wise men and wise women might appear throughout the world; that children may be preserved from those who would abuse them; that this Christmas, worship may become a manger and the church a stable, and the rumour become a reality that Christ has come among us: and this we pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

**Confession**

Holy God, Maker of all **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life **Have mercy on us.**

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen**

**A prayer for God’s help**

Move among us, O God; give us life: **Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us **Renew us in mind and spirit.**

Give us the joy of your help: **With your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

And now, as Jesus taught us we are bold to say: **Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

**Hymn 184 Unto us is born a Son**

**Scripture Reading**

**Hymn 179 See amid the winter’s snow**

**A Christmas meditation**

**Hymn 162 In the bleak midwinter**

**A Christmas meditation**

**Affirmation of Faith**

With the whole church  **We affirm that we are made in God’s image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere **We affirm God’s goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation  **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

**Light in the World**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Shine in the dark places where there are wars and where people hurt each other. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Help our leaders to know how to run this country and this town so that everybody’s needs are met, especially those who are suffering. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Shine in the dark places where people are ill or sad. Please bring help and healing especially to ..... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we are your lights in the world. Help us to be prepared to show people your light by loving them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we are your lights in the world. Help us to be prepared to put the needs of others before our own needs for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we are your lights in the world. Help us to be prepared to look out for you and listen out for you so we can follow you in everything we do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen**

**Hymn 159 Good Christians all rejoice**

**A pause for thought**

**Collection Hymn 175 Of the Father’s heart begotten**

**Closing responses**

Light of God **Lead us** Power of God **Hold us** Joy of God **Heal us** Laughter of God **Bless us** Love of God **Caress us.**

**The Christmas Blessing**

**Hymn 160 Hark, the herald angels sing**

**A Simple Service of the Word for the Sunday after Christmas**

PREPARATION  
*Prayer of Preparation*

We thank you, Father, giver of all good things, for the joy of this season of Christmas, for the good news of a Saviour, and for the wonder of the Word made flesh. Help us now to worship you in his light, So that your holy name may be glorified. **Amen.**

*Hymn 155: Ding, dong merrily on high*

*Sentence of Scripture*

God has shone in our hearts **to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*Penitence*

Let us pray.

We confess that amid all the joys and festivities of the season we have sometimes forgotten what Christmas really means, and have left the Lord Jesus out of our living and thinking.

**Father, forgive us.**

Help us to remember that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, who was born to be our Saviour.

**Father, forgive us.**

We confess that we have allowed the most important event in history to become dulled by familiarity.

**Father, forgive us.**

Help us in this act of worship to recapture a sense of wonder, and to discover again the stupendous fact that the Creator of the universe has come to us as a newborn baby.

**Father, forgive us.**

We confess to a selfish enjoyment of Christmas while we do little to help the homeless families of your world.

**Father, forgive us.**

**Fill our hearts with the love that cares, that understands and gives; show us how we can best serve those in need; for the sake of him who was born in a stable, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Absolution*

Hear God’s tender words of comfort for his people:

Your sorrows are ended, your sin is paid for. God will show you his glory, and you will receive grace at his hand; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Acclamations (Stand)*

The people who walked in darkness **have seen a great light.**

For to us a child is born **to us a Son is given.**

His name will be called Wonderful counsellor, mighty God **the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Glory to God in the highest **and peace to his people on earth.**

*Hymn 152: Come and join the celebration*

*Collect (First Sunday after Christmas)*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9 – God’s mercy remembered*

*Hymn 183: The holly and the ivy*

*Second Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 – the massacre of the innocents*

*Address – the Rector*

*Hymn 158: God rest you merry, gentlemen*

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith – based on Hebrews 1 (Stand)*

Let us declare our faith in the Son of God.

**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through him he made the worlds. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory, the exact representation of his being who sustains all things by his word. After he has provided purification for sins he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Amen.**

*Prayers*

Let us pray.

*The response to the bidding prayer*: ‘Friend of the friendless’ *is* ‘ **‘Hear our prayer’**

*the prayers conclude with the Lord’s Prayer*

*Collection Hymn 179: See, amid the winter snow*

DISMISSAL

*Blessing*

*Dismissal*

Jesus, Son of God, the news of your birth was proclaimed by the angels, and heard by the shepherds; inspire the worship of your Church and make us bearers of the good news that God is with us always. **Amen**.

**Holy Communion - Epiphany**

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*Prayer of Preparation*

Lord Jesus, we celebrate today how wise men were prepared to seek, and keep on seeking, despite setbacks and disappointments, until they found you. We remember how you promised that all who seek will find, that those who ask will receive, that to those who knock the door will be opened, and so we come now, asking for guidance and seeking to know you better, so that, draw ever closer to you, we may offer our loves and lives in glad response, to the glory of your name. **Amen**.

*Processional Hymn 189: As with gladness men of old*

*Collect for purity*

**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.**

*Penitence*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Absolution*

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

*Gloria in Excelsis (Stand)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s 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.**

*Collect (The Feast of the Epiphany)*

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
Mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

*First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 – song of triumph for Zion*

***Psalm***

***The Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12 – Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles***

*Hymn 201: We three kings of Orient are (v. 2, 3 & 4 solo)*

*Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 – the visit of the wise men (Stand)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*Address*

*Nicene Creed (Stand)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of the People*

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father. Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.  
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and families,  
together with the whole community of which we are part.  
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen allthose who suffer.  
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring,  
and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,  
we commend ourselves and all Christian people  
to your unfailing love. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Peace (Stand)*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

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

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD’S TABLE

*Hymn 194: Earth has many a noble city*

*At the Preparation of the Table*

Lord, accept your people’s gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen**.

*The Taking of the Bread and Wine*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us **therefore let us celebrate the feast**.

*The Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

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

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,

a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again. On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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. Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer (Kneel)*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

***The Breaking of the 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.**

*Agnus Dei*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

*The Communion*

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*After Communion* *the Great Silence is observed.*

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*Prayers after Communion*

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

*Blessing*

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace.**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Hymn 198: The first Nowell*

*Dismissal Prayer*

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Holy Communion in Epiphany-tide - Theme: Mission (Times & Seasons)**

*Sentence of Scripture*

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord **and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.**

*Invitations to Confession*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins,  
and not for ours only,  
but also for the sins of the whole world.  
In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins:

*or*

I set no store by life: I only want to finish the race  
and complete the task which the Lord Jesus assigned to me, of bearing witness to the gospel of God’s grace. Conscious of our failure to proclaim the gospel, let us call to mind our sins:

*or*

Do not be anxious about your life,  
what you shall eat or what you shall drink. Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness. Let us confess our sins  
and our failure to make God’s will our priority:

*Kyrie Confessions*

‘I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.’ Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

‘I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me.’  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

‘I was sick and you did not visit me, in prison and you did not come to me.’ Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

We have not held out the word of life in a dark and twisted world: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to share our bread with the hungry: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We have closed our hearts to the love of God: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Collects*

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
send us out in the power of the same Spirit  
to witness to your truth and to draw all to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Gospel Acclamations*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
‘Go and make disciples of all the nations,’ says the Lord;  
‘I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ **Alleluia.**

*or*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
‘Go into all the world,’ says the Lord,  
‘and proclaim the good news to all creation.’ **Alleluia.**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

*Intercession*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father. God of our salvation,  
hope of all the ends of the earth, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That the world may know Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That all who are estranged and without hope may be brought near in the blood of Christ, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That the Church may be one in serving and proclaiming the gospel, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That we may be bold to speak the word of God while you stretch out your hand to save, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That the Church may be generous in giving, faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That the Church may welcome and support all whom God calls to faith, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That all who serve the gospel may be kept in safety while your word accomplishes its purpose, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That all who suffer for the gospel may know the comfort and glory of Christ, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

That the day may come when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, we pray:  
**Your kingdom come.**

Almighty God,  
by your Holy Spirit you have made us one  
with your saints in heaven and on earth:  
grant that in our earthly pilgrimage  
we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness  
to your power and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Introduction to the Peace*

God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. First be reconciled to one another.

*or*

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

*or*

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel: peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near.

*At the Preparation of the Table*

Father, look upon the face of Jesus Christ your Son, who gave up his life to set all people free. From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
may your name be great among the nations,  
and in every place a pure sacrifice be offered to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

Faithful God, receive all we offer you this day. May we so live the life of Christ that your Church may be a sign of salvation to all the nations of the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**.

*Preface*

Father, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord because you are God almighty, creator of the world and all that is in it.  
Through him you made the whole human race  
and in him you show us the mystery of your purpose.  
In him you will bring all things together under him as head,  
all things in heaven, all things on earth.  
Through him we have heard the word of truth,  
the good news of salvation,  
and you have marked us with the seal of your promised Spirit. We who were once far off  
have been brought near by the blood of Christ,  
for he is the peace between us  
and has broken down the barrier of hostility.  
He has made of us one new humanity  
and reconciled us to you by the cross.  
Through him with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven,  
we come before you, Father, by the Holy Spirit,  
for ever praising you and *saying:*

*or*

Living God, Father of light, hope of nations, friend of sinners, builder of the city that is to come:  
your love is made visible in Jesus Christ,  
you bring home the lost, restore the sinner and give dignity to the despised.  
In the face of Jesus Christ your light shines out,  
flooding lives with goodness and truth,  
gathering into one a divided and broken humanity.

With people from every race and nation,  
with the Church of all the ages, with apostles, evangelists and martyrs,  
we join the angels of heaven in their unending song:

*Post Communion Prayer*

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Blessing*

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse you by his holiness  
and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.** And the blessing of God almighty,   
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Dismissal Prayer*

The Lord says, ‘Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations.’ Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**.

*or*

The Lord says,‘Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations.’ Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Communion in Epiphany-tide - Theme: Unity (Times & Seasons)**

*Sentence of Scripture*

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

*Invitation to Confession*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,  
‘A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.’ Let us confess to almighty God  
our failure to accept his love and to share it with others.

*or*

We have come together as God’s family  
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ’s Church and for the renewal of our common life.  
The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.  
In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

*or*

In the presence of the God and Father of us all,  
we meet together to give thanks for the spiritual unity which is already ours as members of the Body of Christ. Let us acknowledge our sin,  
that this unity may, by God’s grace, become a visible unity, so that his Church in every place may demonstrate the healing power of the gospel, and be an instrument of his peace in the life of the world.

*Kyrie Confession*

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

There is one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

There is one God and Father of us all, above all and through all and in all. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Confession*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another,  
in thought, and word, and deed.  
We are truly sorry for our pride,  
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love. We repent of our narrow-mindedness,  
of our bitterness and our prejudices.  
Pardon and forgive us, save us and renew us,  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Collect*

Heavenly Father,  
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation  
and reveal you to the world.  
Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;  
give us the courage to overcome our fears  
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; 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.**

*or*

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles, ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you’:  
look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom; where you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Gospel Acclamations*

Alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. **Alleluia.**

*or*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. **Alleluia.**

*or*

Alleluia, alleluia.  
‘May all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,  
so that the world may believe that you have sent me,’ says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

*Intercession*

In faith let us pray to God our Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. For the Church of God throughout the world, let us invoke the Spirit.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

For the leaders of the nations,  
that they may establish and defend justice and peace, let us pray for the wisdom of God.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

For those who suffer oppression or violence, let us invoke the power of the Deliverer. **Kyrie eleison.**

That the churches may discover again their visible unity in the one baptism which incorporates them in Christ, let us pray for the love of Christ.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

That the churches may attain communion in the Eucharist around one table,  
let us pray for the strength of Christ. **Kyrie eleison.**

That the churches may recognize each other’s ministries in the service of their one Lord,  
let us pray for the peace of Christ.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

*Free prayer of the congregation may follow.*

Into your hands, O Lord,  
we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Introduction to the Peace*

If our life in Christ means anything, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy,  
then be united in your conviction and united in your love,

with a common purpose and a common mind.

*or*

Christ is our hope;  
we give him glory for the great grace by which upon the cross  
he stretched out his hands in love to us all.  
By that same grace may he come, our risen Saviour, into every gesture of unity and fellowship  
which we make toward one another,  
and make the peace we share his peace.

*or*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.’ Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and grant it that peace and unity which is according to your will. We are all one in Christ Jesus. We all belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

*At the Preparation of the Table*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom. **Amen.**

*or*

Lord, hear the prayers of your people as we celebrate this memorial of our salvation. May this sacrament of your love unite us more closely to you and to each other. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

As this bread was scattered  
and then gathered and made one; so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom. **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table. **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

*or*

God of power and love, by your Holy Spirit, draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity  
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prefaces*

And now we give you thanks  
because of the unity you have given us in your Son and that you are the God and Father of us all, above all and through all and in all.

*or*

And now we give you thanks  
because you gather your scattered children into your Church to be as one even as you, Father, are one with your Son and the Holy Spirit.  
You call us to be one people,  
to praise your wisdom in all your works, to be the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

*or*

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
By him, your only Son,  
who restored to us peace through the blood of his cross, you willed to reconcile all creatures. In him you have led us to the knowledge of your truth, that bound together by one faith and one baptism we might become his body.  
Through him you have given your Holy Spirit to all peoples to work marvels by innumerable gifts  
and an abundant variety of graces.  
Gathering us together in unity, your Spirit dwells in the hearts of all your children,  
filling the whole Church with his presence and guiding it with wisdom from above.  
And so, with steadfast love,  
we proclaim your glory and join with hosts of angels  
in their triumphant hymn of praise:

*Post Communion Prayer*

Eternal God and Father  
whose Son at supper prayed that his disciples might be one, as he is one with you:  
draw us closer to him,  
that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another  
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,  
that the world may believe that he is Lord, to your eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

God our Father,  
whose Son at table offered himself as the innocent Lamb,  
and gave us this memorial of his passion until the end of time;  
for ever nourish your people  
with his living bread and saving cup,  
and strengthen them in holiness,  
that the family of mankind may live  
in the light of one faith  
in one communion of love;  
through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Blessing*

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, teach you to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully,  
and to share his life more lovingly;  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Dismissal*

One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*or*

One in heart and one in mind, and empowered by the Spirit, go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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