

*The Service of Holy Communion for*

✠ CHRISTMAS EVE ✠

CELEBRATING  
THE BIRTH OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST

# WELCOME

## HYMN

*All* What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. (*Refrain.*)  
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. (*Refrain.*)

## INTROIT PSALM (2:7-8)

*Priest* Let me announce the decree of the LORD:  
*People* ***he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I  
begotten you.***

etc. Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *and the ends of the earth for your possession.*”

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

Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *he said to me, “You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.”*

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

¶ *Then the Priest reads Luke 2:1–14.*

*Priest* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROCESSION

*Priest* Let us go forth in peace.

*People* **In the Name of the Lord. Amen.**

¶ *During the following hymn, the priest retrieves the figurine of the Christ Child which has been resting in the tabernacle since the First Sunday of Advent. He holds it aloft and processes around the church, ending at the crèche.*

All O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created: (*Refrain.*)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest: (*Refrain.*)

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
(*Refrain.*)

¶ *Arriving at the crèche, the priest places the figurine of the Christ Child in the manger, then says the following prayer:*

*Priest* Let us pray:

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

*¶ Then the hymn continues and the priest returns to the entrance of the sanctuary.*

*All* Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
(*Refrain.*)

## ENTRANCE

*Priest* † Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

## PENITENTIAL RITE

*Priest* Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

*People* **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these, your laws, in our hearts, we beseech you.**

*All* **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.** (*Thrice*)

*Minister* Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*¶ Please kneel, if you are able.*

*All* **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus**

Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Priest* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, + pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Minister* Hear what comforting words our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hear also what Saint Paul says: This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John says: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins.

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

¶ *Please stand.*

*Priest* Glory be to God on high,

*All* and in earth peace, good will towards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## COLLECT

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen. *Amen.*

## LESSON

¶ *Please be seated.*

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel (4:34–37).

¶ *After the reading, the reader and people say,*

*Reader* **The Word of the Lord.**

*People* Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL PSALM (110:1–4)

*Reader* The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,

*People* ***until I make your enemies your footstool.***”

*etc.* The LORD will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, *saying, “Rule over your enemies round about you.*

Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; *in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning.*”

The LORD has sworn and he will not recant: *“You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”*

## EPISTLE

*Reader* A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (I:1–I2).

¶ *After the reading, the reader and people say,*

*Reader* **The Word of the Lord.**

*People* Thanks be to God.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

¶ *The priest processes to the wreath with the Gospel book, and lights the Christ Candle at the centre of the wreath. Three times the priest and people sing to one another:*

*Priest* The light of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *Then the people share the light with one another. When they pass the light, they say, “The light of Christ,” and the person receiving the light responds, “Thanks be to God.”*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Priest* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Saint John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*¶ Then the Priest reads John 1:1-14.*

*Priest* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## SERMON

*¶ Please be seated after the priest makes the sign  
of the cross.*

## CREED

*¶ Please stand.*

*Priest* Now let us love one another, that with one mind  
we may confess God the Holy Trinity, one in  
essence and undivided.

*All* **We believe in one God, the Father, the  
Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that  
is, visible and invisible.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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, and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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.

# HYMN

¶ *The priest prepares the gifts of bread and wine while the following hymn is sung and the financial offering is collected.*

*All*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, to all good will  
from heaven’s all-gracious king!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we amid our wars hear not  
the words of peace they bring;  
O listen now, and still your strife  
to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold:  
when the new heaven and earth shall own  
the Prince of Peace their King,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## INTERCESSION

¶ *The priest brings the bread and wine into the midst of the people so that they can be presented at the altar along with the people's prayers.*

¶ *The priest bids the people to pray. Then the minister reads several petitions, and after each one the priest and people respond,*

*Priest*     Let us pray to the Lord.

*People*     **Lord, have mercy.**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Priest* Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord.

*People* **And of your own have we given you.**

## THANKSGIVING

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is right and just so to do.**

*Priest* It is truly right and just, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed

from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying,

*All* **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. † Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

*Priest* **Blessing and glory and thanksgiving are yours ...**

*¶ The priest continues the prayer, which concludes,*

**By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.***

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Priest* And now as our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to pray:

*All* Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

# PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

¶ *Please kneel, if you are able.*

*All* We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*All* Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world: Have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world: Have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world: Grant us thy peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Then the priest and minister distribute Holy Communion at the altar rail. Everyone is welcome to approach the altar—believers and non-believers, and members of all denominations. Holy Communion is about renewing our participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus which we initiate in baptism and continue by faith. We ask that, if you have not been baptized or if you do not believe in Christ, you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than the Body and Blood of Christ.*

## HYMN

*All* The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain.*)

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain.*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain.*)

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
(*Refrain.*)

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought. (*Refrain.*)

## THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

*Priest* Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God ...

*¶ The priest continues the prayer, which concludes,*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Priest* The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*¶ Parish and community notices may be given,  
then the minister dismisses the people.*

*Minister* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## HYMN

*All* Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as one of us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! (*Refrain.*)

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. (*Refrain.*)



## WELCOME

*Merry Christmas! We're glad that you are here in God's house. This booklet contains everything you need to follow the service. If Anglican worship is unfamiliar to you, that's okay. Prioritize taking it all in with an open heart.*

*Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church. They are treasures from God. Feel free to move around the church during the service, if that's helpful for keeping your children engaged and comfortable.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 AM                      *Spoken Service (sermon, but no music)*

10:30 AM                    *Choral Service (both sermon and music)*

