



Common Worship
Holy Communion
Christmas Night



¶ *The Gathering*

Christmas Prologue

The president says

This, tonight,
is the meeting place
of heaven and earth.

For this, tonight,
is the stable
in which God keeps his appointment
to meet his people.

Not many high are here,
not many holy;
not many innocent children,
not many worldly wise;
not all familiar faces,
not all frequent visitors.

But, if tonight
only strangers met,
that would be enough.

For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe,
nor was the stable a platform for famous folk.

In an out-of-the-way place
which folk never thought to visit –
there God kept and keeps his promise;
there God sends his Son.

Hymn

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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.

All **Amen.**

May God who has brought us out of darkness
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his Son.

All **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and transform your lives,
to bring his light to others.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

cf Colossians 1.13; 2 Corinthians 4.4, John 1.14

The deacon says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

The ministers and people depart.

Blessing of 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.

All **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon says

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.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All 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.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president says

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.

All Amen.

The fifth candle in the Advent Wreath is lit

**All Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in the your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

† The Dismissal

**Hymn
Blessing**

The president says

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy, have mercy on us.**

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

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says

Christ is the true bread which has come down
from heaven.

All **Lord give us this bread always.**

The president and people receive communion

*Please come forward, as invited, to receive
communion. If you are a visitor and have been
baptised you are very welcome to take communion
with us here. If you do not receive communion then
we invite you to come for a blessing. .*

Gloria in Excelsis

The president says

Let us sing with joy

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One.**

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer

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

Silence is kept

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness
with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in
earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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.**

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us
 at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us
 the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things
 in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Hymn Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the deacon says

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

All Holy God
hear our prayer.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

Luke 2.14

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

All exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed
upon it. The president takes the bread and wine.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo
the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

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

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.