

Holy Communion Christmas & Epiphany



***Open to God, open to one
another, open to the
community***

Welcome to our service this morning, from wherever you join us. We worship together, whether physically in the building or joining us online. We may be scattered physically, but we worship together as the family of God. May each one of us be blessed as we sing, pray and reflect together.

Everyone is welcome to receive communion with us today, whatever your tradition.

If for any reason you would rather not receive, please do come forward for a blessing.

If you require gluten free bread, please let one of the churchwardens know.

You may find these prayers helpful as you prepare for the service

**God of darkness, God of light, God of stars and angels,
God of weary travellers and stables,
God of hard labour and new birth, we come today to worship you.
Open our eyes to your glory, open our ears to your wisdom
Open our hearts to your love as we come to worship Jesus, the newborn king.**

Lighting the Christmas candle

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

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld God's glory

*This is the table, not of the righteous,
but of the poor in spirit.*

*It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.*

*So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time,
You who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.*

Christ invites everyone to be known and fed here.'

Adapted from Iona Worship Book

The Gathering

Hymn

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Welcome

Words of welcome and introduction

Prayer of preparation

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

Prayer of Penitence

Invitation to confession

As we kneel before the Christ child we open our hearts in
penitence and faith
Christ came in humility to share our lives
To bring us hope and light
Lord have mercy
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came to show the way of peace
That all may be reconciled
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came to bring God's love
So we may live in fulness
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.**

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

One or more Bible readings are heard, followed by;

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
Alleluia. *Cf John 1 v.4*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:

Holy God Hear our Prayer

at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a Son is born, unto us a son is given and his name shall
be called the Prince of Peace *cf. Isaiah 9 v 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Hymn

The Preparation of the Table

Word made flesh, life of the world
In your incarnation you embraced our poverty
By your spirit we share in your riches **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy father, heavenly king, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us
that we might become one with you

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

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

Accept our praises heavenly Father
Through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
And as we follow his example and obey his command
Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
These gifts of bread and wine
May be to us his body and his blood
who in the same night he was betrayed
Took bread and gave you thanks
He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way after supper
He took the cup and gave you thanks
He gave it to them saying;
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

Therefore heavenly Father
We remember his offering of himself
Made once for all on the cross;
We proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
We look for the coming of your kingdom
And with this bread and this cup
We make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

Accept through him our great high priest
This our sacrifice of thanks and praise
And as we eat and drink these holy gifts
In the presence of your divine majesty
Renew us by your Spirit
Inspire us with your love
And unite us in the body of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord

Through him and with him and in him
In the unity of the Holy Spirit
With all who stand before you in earth and heaven
We worship you Father almighty
In songs of everlasting praise

Blessing and honour and glory and power
Be yours for ever and ever, Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world
**God is here among us, light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life**

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The invitation to Communion is extended to all those worshipping with us today, whether in the physical bread we can touch with our bodies or the spiritual communion with God who comes to us wherever we are. Come to God honestly, in the way you know how. In silence, in music or in words. This prayer, or one like it has been helpful for some people.

Dear Christ, I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. May I never be separated from you. Amen (*After the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen

silence is kept

Prayer after Communion

The minister prays the post communion prayer, and then we say together:

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

Notices

The Dismissal

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,

Fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature

And the blessing of God... **Amen**

Hymn

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen

Some material:

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