

## *We gather in worship*

*Before we begin, the priest will welcome everyone and invite us to join in prayer as we prepare ourselves for worship.*

**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.**

*After praying, please remain quiet until the bell rings and we stand to sing:*

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in  
fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping  
their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so  
deep:**

***Refrain:***

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

**Then wise men from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star;  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:**

***Refrain:***

**At Bethlehem they entered in,  
on bended knee they worshipped  
him;  
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;  
for Christ has our salvation  
wrought  
and with His blood our life has  
bought:**

***Refrain:***

*Adapted by Michael Perry (1942 – 1996)*

**✠ In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**The Lord be with you;  
and also with you.**

*Donations can be made using the contactless card reader during the offertory hymn. There is a box by the entrance. Details of online options are in the news sheet and on our website.*

*The deacon invites us to confess,*

As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The priest declares forgiveness. We sing,*

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

**Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, Heav'nly King,  
Almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

**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.  
Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

*The priest invites us to pray in silence,  
then says the prayer set for today,*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your  
own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our  
humanity,  
so we may share the life of his  
divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## ***We listen for God's Word***

**Reading:** *Colossians 3.12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*The cantor leads **Psalm 148** and we join in the refrain.*



**Let all praise the**



**name of the Lord.**

♪ **Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights;  
Praise him, all you his angels, praise  
him, all you his hosts.

♪ **Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.  
Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

♪ **Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

You mountains and all you hills,  
you fruit trees and all you cedars;  
You wild beasts and all tame animals,  
you creeping things and you winged  
fowl.

♪ **Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

His majesty is above earth and heaven,  
and he has lifted his horn above the  
people.

♪ **Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 2.41-52**

*We stand, facing the gospel.*

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey.

Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were

astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon**, then we keep silence together.*

## **The Creed**

**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 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.

**Prayers of Intercession**                      *We sit*

*The response in the prayers is*  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*and, at the end,*  
Merciful Father,

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

## ***We celebrate and receive Jesus in Bread and Wine***

### ***The Peace***

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### ***The Offering***

*We stand to sing as a collection is taken. Please indicate if you wish to make an offering, cash or contactless.*

**A great and mighty wonder,  
a full and holy cure!**

**The Virgin bears the Infant  
with virgin-honour pure:**

***Repeat the hymn again:  
"To God on high be glory,  
and peace on earth to men."***

**The Word becomes incarnate,  
and yet remains on high;  
and cherubim sing anthems  
to shepherds from the sky:**

***Repeat.....***

**While thus they sing your monarch,  
those bright angelic bands,  
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
ye oceans, clap your hands:**

***Repeat.....***

**Since all He comes to ransom,**

by all be He adored,  
the Infant born in Beth'lem,  
the Saviour and the Lord:

**Repeat.....**

*St Germanus (639 – 734) trans. John Mason Neale  
(1818 – 1886)*

*The priest takes the bread and wine  
and says the prayers of preparation,  
We respond to each part of the prayer:*  
**Blessèd be God forever.**

***The Eucharistic Prayer***

*Please remain standing if it is  
comfortable for you.*

The Lord is here;  
**God's 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 thanks and praise.**

*The priest praises God and we sing,*

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The priest continues, recalling the Last  
Supper, then the deacon says,*

Great is the mystery of faith,  
♪ **Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

*The priest continues ending with  
...forever and ever. Amen.*

As our Saviour taught, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be  
your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in  
heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we  
forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but  
deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

♪ **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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

***We share in Communion***

*The people receive communion  
or a blessing. Gluten free is available.*

**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?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is  
here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce Him  
through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and  
myrrh,  
all tongues and peoples own Him,**

**the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone Him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy for Christ is born  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

*We keep silence together.*

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at  
Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one  
family, united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in  
heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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 may be given.*

*We may hear from the children.*

***We go into the world  
to share God's love***

*We stand to sing this hymn,*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and  
nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills  
and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and  
grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)*

***The Blessing***

*The priest prays for God's 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 almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
always.  
Amen

*The deacon says,*

Go in the peace to love and serve the  
Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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