

9:30am Christmas Day

25 December 2023

Welcome

Call to Worship

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,

the One who gives food to the hungry,

the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

As we worship you in this place,

As we light these candles in hope, love, joy and peace.

Song: Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible says,

Mary's Boy child, Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day.

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem that night.

They found no place to bear her child,

not a single room was in sight.

Hark! Now hear the angels sing, A new King born today.

And we will live forever more because of Christmas day.

Trumpets sound and angels sing, listen to what they say,

that man will live for evermore because of Christmas day.

By and by they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn,

and in that manger, cold and dark, Mary's little boy was born.
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
They saw a bright new shining star,
and heard a choir from heaven sing the music came from afar.

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Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight over all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth!

**Come and worship Christ the new-born King;
come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing:
yonder shines the infant light!

Wise men, leave your contemplations!
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen His natal star:

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear:

Words James Montgomery (1771-1854) Words (c) Jubilate Hymns Music French carol melody
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Advent Wreath: Christ Candle

The advent candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and that he came to show us what God is like. The four candles reminded

us of the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brought through his birth, death and resurrection.

The coming of the Messiah was told by prophets and angels. It was read in the stars by the Magi and longed for by the priests of the temple.

Our Advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle.

“For unto us a child is given, unto us a Saviour is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders.”

With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed.

We will be transformed by his model and message.

We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the centre of our lives.

Let us pray

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. ***Amen***

Bible Reading: John 1.1-14 (Ingrid)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own,^[c] and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become

children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, ^[d] full of grace and truth.

Message

Offering Song: O Holy Night

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by the light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend
He knows our need, to our weakfess is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever

His power and glory, evermore proclaim
His power and glory, evermore proclaim

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Thanksgiving for the Offering

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside-down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.

Confession

**Merciful God our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Declaration of Forgiveness

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all
who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for our Church and the World (Robyn W)

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (Robyn W and Jaq to assist)

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of the Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us. In your Word made flesh
You have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with 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.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
After Supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his
coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy
of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us
with this holy food.

By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence
to all people.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices

- Services in January in pew sheet
- We wish you a merry Christmas

Joy to the world!

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 saviour reigns;
let men their 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.

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Blessing

By the tender mercy of our God
love has broken upon us!

Light is given where once there was darkness
and hope where there was only death.

We go into this season knowing
that God will guide our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**