

An order for the Holy Eucharist

for All-Age
Worship for
Christmas
& Epiphany



the parish of
St George the Martyr
Shirley

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- Diddy Disciples (The 2nd Prayer of Confession)
- The Feast of the Christ Child: A Christmas Communion liturgy from Iona—Pat Bennett published by Wild Goose Publications



Large Print copies of this service and the separate sheets are available – if you would like one, please ask.

There is an induction loop system – switch to 'T' position.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available – please ask.



We Gather

We stand at the entry of the choir and clergy for the Gathering Hymn.
(All hymns and additional material can be found on the separate sheet.)

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

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.

Informal words of welcome.

Opening Words:

Starlight and song have once again summoned us home to the stable.
**And so, with the beasts of the field,
and the humble and the high,
we have come to gaze on the face of God.**

Story and supper have once again drawn us home to God's table.
**And here, through words worn smooth with telling,
and gifts given life through sharing,
may we once again see and know you,
Emmanuel – God with us and for us**

OR

With each new day

There is a new beginning.

With each new year

We can make a fresh start.

With a fresh start and a new beginning

There is fresh hope.

With fresh hope in our hearts

We come to worship God.

We ask for God's forgiveness

**God of angels and the wise Magi,
you know we don't always act like angels.
We say the wrong thing and someone gets hurt.
We're not always wise either.
We do something foolish and we don't know how to set things right.
Jesus, we're sorry. Help us make a fresh start in this new year.
Guide us by the love that shines from your life.**

OR

The deacon says:

The Good News is God loves to give us a new start
Let's have a time of saying sorry to God now.

Sometimes we do things we wish we hadn't done
Sometimes it can feel like we've done it all wrong
We wish we could have a new start

Let's put our hands on our head (*place hands on head*)

I wonder if there's anything we've thought this week
That we wish we hadn't thought.....

Let's put our hands by our mouths (*place hands by mouth*)

I wonder if there's anything we've said this week
That we wish we hadn't said.....

Let's cross our hands on our chest (*cross hands on chest*)

I wonder if there's anything we've done this week
That we wish we hadn't done.....

The good news is that God loves giving new starts
God can wash us not just outside.....
But inside too.
Thank you, God

We receive God's forgiveness

The president uses these or similar words

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

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 God 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!

After Gloria in Excelsis , Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

We listen to God's Word

The Collect Prayer for this week

The president reads the appropriate prayer for the week.

We sit to listen to the readings.

(see separate sheet)

The Reading(s)

At the end of each reading

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



We stand to hear the Gospel.

*We sing the **Gospel Hymn** during which we turn to face the gospel reader.*

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

(OR)

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

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

At the end of the Gospel reading.

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

We sit to listen to a talk.

Affirmation of Faith

Deacon We say together in faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**



We sit or kneel to pray.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

(OR)

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

We are invited to respond to each prayer offered in these, or similar, words:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We end our prayers with these or similar words:

**God of mercy,
hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever. Amen**

We come to be fed

We stand as the president introduces the peace with these or similar words.

The Peace

May the peace of the Christmas Child –
the soft peace of a starlit night,
the noisy peace of a crowded stable,
the challenging peace of life and love fully lived and freely shared –
enfold, enrich and energise you.

(OR)

If our life in Christ means anything, if love can persuade at all
or the spirit that we have in common,
or any tenderness and sympathy,
then be united in your conviction
and united in your love,
With a common purpose
and a common mind.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share a handshake with those around us saying 'Peace be with you'.

The Hymn of the Gifts is sung. (see separate sheet)

Preparation of the Table

The bread and wine for communion are brought to the altar.

President: Word made flesh, life of the world
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty,
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

(OR)

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation. Amen

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (This or the Christmas Thanksgiving on p.10)

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

Young person: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Listen, and we will hear.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,



he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Young person Why do we share this bread and wine?
Listen, and we will hear.

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and 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 for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Young person: How do we follow Jesus Christ?
Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Blessed Mary, St George, [N] and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. Amen.

(Turn to page 12)

OR

The Christmas Thanksgiving Prayer

The story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus –
joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh
and entering the constraint of time
to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered
transcend their limitations:

It is the story of Jesus – seated at a table with his friends
breaking bread *(the bread is broken)*
and pouring wine *(the wine is poured)*

to show how life and love fully lived
and freely offered change the world.

It is the story of Jesus –
accepting a kiss and carrying a cross
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared count no cost.

It is the story of Jesus –
confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared
defy and defeat even death.

It is the story of Emmanuel –
God, now and always with us and for us.

So, as we take this bread and wine
- in remembrance of that life and love –
we give thanks for the healing and hope
which spring from the coming, living,
dying and rising of the Christmas Child.

And, with those who gather round his crib, with the angel choirs,
and the singing planets, we join in creation's song of joy:

**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.**



And as we follow the example of Jesus
send down your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that the story of the Christmas Child –
of life fully lived and freely shared –
may continue on in us and through us,
until the world is transformed.

We sit or kneel to say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray..

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**



Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

(OR) Emmanuel who came to us in the Christmas Child,
and who comes to us still through the living,
loving and sharing of others,
offers these signs of his Presence
and invites us to join our story with theirs.

All are welcome at the altar.

Please come forward to the altar rail as directed.

If you wish to receive the blessed bread please offer your cupped hands to receive it. Likewise, if you wish to receive the blessed wine please guide the cup and take a sip of wine.

If for any reason you feel unable to receive the blessed bread and wine, please do still come forward to receive a sign of God's blessing – simply bow your head and keep your hands lowered.

Hymns sung during communion can be found on the separate sheet.

Please respect each other's need for silence during this time.

Prayers after Communion

The president reads the After Communion Prayer for the week.
(See separate sheet)

The After-Communion Prayer

**Lord Jesus,
live in us so that we might live in the world
with your light in our eyes,
your word on our lips,
and your love in our hearts.
May all that we are, and all that we do,
be for the glory of your name. Amen**

The notices and any banns of marriage are read.

We are sent out into the World

We stand as the president dismisses and blesses the people using these or similar words.

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

(OR)

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing ...

(OR)

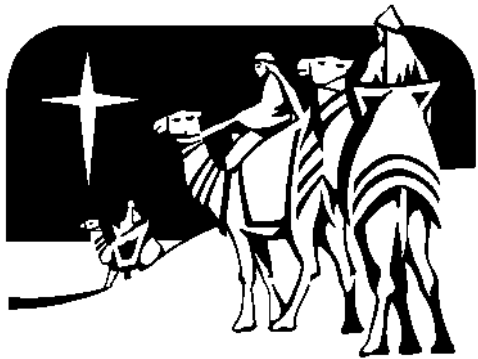
May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
And the blessing ...

The Dismissal

Deacon:
We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

The Final Hymn is sung as the choir and clergy leave. (see separate sheet)





Please come and meet each other and enjoy a chat over a cup of fairtrade tea or coffee after the service