

Christ Church Holy Communion: Christmas Day 2022

Welcome and gathering worship

‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God, **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

The ‘Christ-child’ is brought to the crib by child(ren) present

The blessing of the crib

God our Father, on this day 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. **Amen.**

Lighting the Christmas Candle

The leader, with the help of a volunteer, lights the Christmas Candle in the Advent Crown

People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ’s peace. All God’s people shout:

Amen!

Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's light. All God's people shout:

Amen!

One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's love. All God's people shout:

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

Carol: Joy to the world, the Lord has come

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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

Lord, have mercy. **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. **Christ, have mercy.**

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

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Carol: Away in a manger

Gospel Reading

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

Luke 2:1-14

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

Sermon

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm together our common faith in Jesus Christ. Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Intercessions

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

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

The Communion

The Lord is here; **His 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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people. 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 in your glorious kingdom. And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that 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.

Christ is the bread of life: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

We share bread and wine together

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

May the light of faith illumine our heart and shine in our words and deeds; Amen

Carol: O come all ye faithful

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love in time and in eternity.
Amen

Sending out

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh. **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**



We
wish
you a
merry
Christmas