

*Christmas Eve  
Holy Communion*



*St John's  
Church*

## ***Welcome***

The people who walked in darkness

**All: have seen a great light.**

For to us a child is born,

**All: to us a Son is given.**

His name will be called

Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,

**All: the Everlasting Father,**

**the Prince of Peace.**

Glory to God in the highest

**All: and peace to his people on earth.**

## ***Opening prayer***

Lord Jesus Christ

May we come to worship you with the

Shepherds , proclaim you with the

Angles, seek you with the wise men,

offer ourselves to you with Joseph and

Mary, and rejoice in your love, Jesus

Our Lord, who lives and reigns with the

The Father and the Spirit now and

Forever **Amen**



### **Carol**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from Heaven afar,  
Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!

### ***Confession***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world. Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy.**

Christ came in humility to share our lives: Forgive our pride.

Lord have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
Draw us to himself,  
And cleanse us from all our sins  
That we may behold the glory of his Son,  
The Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

***The Collect***

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again and  
made your children by adoption and grace, may  
daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and  
reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### ***Prayers***

### ***Reading***

### ***Sermon***

#### **Carol**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above,

While mortals sleep the Angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His Heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

### ***The Breaking of Bread***

L: Bethlehem is a long way away

**All: And Jesus was born a long time ago.**

L: But Jesus was born for us,

**All: He is here with us still.**

L: Jesus invites us

**All: To meet Him at his table**

God of all goodness we thank you for the Word  
made flesh among us  
For the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord;

For His coming as the  
Least among the least,  
In poverty among the poor  
In vulnerability and need  
You have placed your love  
at our disposal, becoming for us a  
Living hope in the midst of our  
Powerlessness;  
Challenging the proud  
And overcoming the powers  
Of darkness that oppress and enslave us  
With thanksgiving we remember  
Mary's loving response to your purpose  
Joseph's care-full obedience to your will  
And we remember all who have responded  
To grace by offering their lives  
To make incarnate the promise of your  
Justice and now share the fullness of  
Your joy! With the angels who welcomed your birth  
with singing and all of heaven we say

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

On the night before He died, He came to supper  
with His disciples and, taking bread, He 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

and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this,  
as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Dying You destroyed our death  
Rising You restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

Father, we plead with confidence  
His sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we  
remember His dying and rising in glory, and we  
rejoice that He intercedes for us at Your right  
hand. Touched by the Spirit,  
In bread and wine, make us one body  
With Christ in suffering and glory.  
Together in Him we will praise you,  
And serve you in the world until the gift of  
Christmas is fulfilled for us and all creation.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be Yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

As our Saviour has 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**

Invitation to Communion

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**

Draw near with faith

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which  
he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for  
you

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for  
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with  
thanksgiving

Administration of communion

### ***Closing prayer***

We praise and thank you, creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.

Every year we celebrate your coming as  
Emmanuel.

Every Eucharist celebrates  
his death, in the bread we break and  
the cup we share, until that day when  
we shall see you face to face,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

L: The Word was made flesh and lived among us  
**All: and we have seen his glory.**

***Carol***

O Come all ye faithful

***Blessing***

May we go out this Christmas Eve

In the peace of Jesus Christ.

May his peace,

Which lightens the soul with faith,

Lifts the spirit with hope

And leavens the world with love,

Be yours tonight and always.

And the blessing of God, Father Son and Spirit,

Go with you and stay with you, now and always.

**Amen**