

Welcome

This was the moment when Before turned into After.
This was the moment when nothing happened.
Only dull peace sprawled boringly over the earth
This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote places
And this was the moment when a few farm workers
And a few members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazardly by starlight
Straight into the kingdom of heaven.

Lighting the Advent Candles

with an explanation of their meaning (1. Prophets, 2. John the Baptist, 3 Mary, 4. The people of God)

Worship in Song

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

Fear not said he for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind

To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God who thus
Addressed their joyful song

All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace
Goodwill hence forth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease

Thanksgiving

God our Father, as we listen again to the
story of Christmas and we are glad that Jesus
has come to be our saviour and our friend.

We hear how Mary laid her baby in a manger,
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the angels sang over the Bethlehem
hills 'Glory to God, peace for the world'
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the shepherds hurried to see
the truth of the angels words
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the wise men came to bring
their worship and their precious gifts
Jesus has come; thank you Father.

**O God, we thank you that Jesus has come to
be our saviour and our friend:
we welcome him with love, and serve him
with gladness, for your glory's sake. Amen.**

Bible Reading

Luke 2.1-20 (*New Testament p857*)

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Using words from Philipians chapter 2, let us
affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to
equality with God, but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave, he was born in
human likeness. He humbled himself and was
obedient to death, even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high, and
given him the name above every name: that at
the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and
every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Worship in Song

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
Heav'nly 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

Words from the beginning of John's Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of us all. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May God our Father forgive us our sins, and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

Intercessions

At the end: Merciful Father;
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

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

Worship in Song

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth 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

Offertory Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.

The Communion

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 thanks and praise

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. 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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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. 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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Giving of Communion

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.

We receive communion

Song during communion

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race
But the skies were filled
With the praise of heav'n
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit
Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal
He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath He fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honour
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms
Giving glory to Immanuel

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

God of God
Light of light
Lo He abhors not the virgin's womb
Very God,
Begotten not created

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
In the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

Blessing

The joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child, fill your hearts this Christmas time; and the blessing of God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.