

Introduction to Worship

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Worship in Song

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing

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.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our
unworthiness to stand in your presence as
your children.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the
mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to
your will.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a
manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of
your ways.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to
Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack
of vision.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus
the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

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.

Prayer for Today

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family, and draw
us into your holy life through the birth of
Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Luke 2.22-40 (*New Testament p857*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Using words from Philippians 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.**

Prayers

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

Worship in Song

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross. (repeat)

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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 all the
angels 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

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your
Church to live as one family, united in love and
obedience, and bring us all at last to our home
in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Worship in Song

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

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. **Amen.**

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