

# Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (Christmas Day)



### Hymn 1: O Come all ye faithful

1. 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.*
2. God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created:  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
3. Sing choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest.  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, mighty God and Prince of peace. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;**

**Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;**

**Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

### 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

(52. 7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight, they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

**Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of the Lord.**

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory. (R)

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel. (R)

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
break forth into joyous song and sing praise. (R)

Sing praise to the Lord, with the lyre,  
With the lyre and the sounds of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise  
Before the King, the Lord. (R)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. (R)

## A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (1. 1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to S. John

(1. 1-14)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation:** *The birth of Jesus brings hope for a better future to the whole world. The good news we celebrate today, the promise of Christmas is that in Jesus, in this tiny child born in Bethlehem, God reaches out to us in love. He came to share our lives and invites us to share his glorious eternal life. He promises a place with him in heaven for ever for all who respond to his loving us by loving him and our neighbours in return. In revealing the love of God for us, Jesus shows that like any good parent our heavenly Father wants the best for us his children. In Jesus God invests himself in us. He wants us to discover the talents he has given us, to develop and use those talents for the greater good of the communities in which we live and for the whole world. He wants us to reach our full potential as the human beings he created us to be. He wants all this for us because he wants us to enjoy our lives to the full. We can hope to do this if we walk with Jesus in our daily lives as he walks with us. Today as we share the hope of a better future free from the fear and danger of conflict and warfare let us invest all our hopes for the future in him, Jesus, the Son of God. As we gaze upon the image of the new-born Christ child surrounded by his parents and the visiting shepherds, let us feel the excitement of the arrival of a new-born and let the hope that a new child brings grow in our hearts. As he was born in a stable in Bethlehem two thousand plus years ago, let him be born again in our hearts today let his love shine through us that the hope which his birth brings can be renewed through all the world. Amen.*

### **Intercessions:**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own Church and the Churches of our Ministry Area; may the Church be filled with his love and proclaim his continuing presence to the world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; May there be peace throughout the world, may reconciliation overcome conflict and division.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; May the joy of Christmas fill our hearts, may the blessing of Christ fill us all.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Peace:**

Jesus said, Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

### **Let us pray:**

**God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Hymn 2: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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 host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen 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 us second birth.  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*