



Worship for Christmas Eve with Spiritual Communion

Welcome

Welcome to this special service for the evening of Christmas Eve as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This worship reflects the liturgy used at the First Communion of Christmas, midnight mass, with spiritual communion, and works well as a way to celebrate Christmas on this most holy of nights. I have included here the music that will be played in church as well as indicating where would be a good place to sing a carol. I know that we all have a different favourite carols so instead of choosing carols of this service I have prepared a separate sheet with some suggested carols with links to versions on YouTube and will leave you to decide which carols you would like to sing at home. So, let us take a moment to be still in the presence of God as we get ready for worship.

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man. Great little one whose all-embracing birth brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Music: O Holy night

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus be with you **and also with you.**

(Carol)

The Blessing of the Crib

(At services on Christmas Eve it is the tradition to bless the crib scene in church. Many of you will have prepared a crib scene in your home so why not take this opportunity to bless your crib and join with others in saying this special prayer. You may like to say this prayer over your crib scene)

Dear Friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: May you bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth: through it may we be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

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. *Silence*

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, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever. *Silence.*

Eternal God, who made this 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**

Old and News Testament reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 and Hebrews 1: 1-4

(Carol)

Gospel reading: Joan 1: 1-14

Talk

I have made a video of the talk.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Carol)

The prayers

I have made a video of the prayers.

In peace let us pray to the Lord. Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born as a child among us. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

In this holy night the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Keep in safety all those who have passed through death in the hope of heaven. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians, the world over celebrate his birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. *Silence.* Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ Amen.**

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang, Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all on whom his favour rests. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. "..... (the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.

The Lord's prayer

Spiritual Communion

Act of Contrition

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things, and I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again, grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

Act of Spiritual Reception

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

O LORD and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. **Amen.**

(Carol)

We go out

God our Father, tonight you have made known to us again the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; may our Christmas celebration 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 forever Amen**

Music:

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

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