

Christmas



He is Here!

WELCOME

Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

Now the Word is made flesh and laid low in a narrow manger.
From eternity to eternity you are God,
and now we see you as a newborn child.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

HYMN

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.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our saviour
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

COLLECT/ READINGS/ SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

THE PEACE

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up 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 for your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and 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 love of
the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.***

The president recounts the Last Supper

... in remembrance of me:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our saviour has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
So to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

The president and the people receive communion. All who know and love the Lord Jesus are welcome to receive communion at St Stephen's.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**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.**

NOTICES/ HYMN

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and watch over you.
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
In the name of Christ.