

St Luke's Morning Worship Christmas Day



Call to worship

In the name of the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit
Amen

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

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.
We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

As we light the candles in our Advent Wreath we
remember the preparations which God our Father
made for the coming of his Son into the world.

The previous Sunday's candles are lit

Our first candle reminds us of the patriarchs who
looked forward to the coming of Jesus. Our second
candle reminds us of the prophets who told of the
coming messiah. Our third candle reminds us of John
the Baptist who came to prepare the way for the
Lord. Our fourth candle reminds us of Mary who was
obedient and became the mother of Jesus.

The centre candle is lit

God our Father, today the saviour is born and those
who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us,
who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the
light of your Son and to share the good news of your
love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who
has come into the world.
Amen.

Today is Christmas day: on this special day we light
the last candle and rejoice together:

Lord Jesus, Light of Light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in the world.
Glory to God in the highest. **Amen.**

Carol: O Come All ye Faithful

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 from true God, and
Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of God the Father....

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*(attributed to): John Francis Wade;
Translator: Frederick Oakeley (1841)*



Prayers of Penitence

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.

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 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.

Prayer of the Day

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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Isaiah 9: 2-7 and Luke 2: 1-14

Carol: Ding Dong Merrily on High

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

G R Woodward



Reflection by Rev Greg Hoyland

Affirmation of faith

We declare our faith together.
**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.**

Prayers

The prayers conclude with
Holy God,
hear our prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us

**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 forever.
Amen.**

Carol Hark the Herald Angels Sing:

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 heaven
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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"



Charles Wesley (1739)

Conclusion

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires
with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ
brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May this Christmas morning make us happy to be
Your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our
beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

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

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

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary
became the God-bearer, give us grace to carry the
good news of Christ.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain
with us always
Amen

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**
And we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**



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