

Family Communion and Nativity Play



**Welcome to our worship. We're really glad you are here!
As we take part in the age old story of the birth of Jesus today,
think what it must really have been like for Mary and what she
took on in her obedient choice of God.**

Reading
Micah 5:2

We sit

Receiving
Travelling Crib



Travellers:

All:

Travellers:

All:

We have come seeking the presence of God

Who are you and where are you going?

We are and we have come with Mary and Joseph. They are on their way to Bethlehem.

Stay and worship with us awhile. We are all journeying towards God together.

We stand

Greeting

We meet in the name of God:

**God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Spirit:
God is one.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.



Hymn 631

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

Confession

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.

**Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.

**Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.

**Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

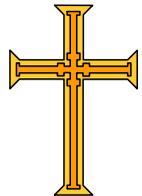
Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Lighting of
Advent Ring

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**



Hymn 631

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word
firm is his promise and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
to children's children and for evermore.

We sit

Nativity

The Annunciation



We stand

Hymn 859

Little donkey *Music Group*

Nativity

Travel to Bethlehem and birth



We sit

Short
address

We stand

Creed

Let us declare 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.

Nativity

Shepherds and glory



We sit

Prayers

We use as a response:
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah(x3)
O Lord Kum ba yah.

We kneel or sit

Someone's crying, Lord,
kum ba yah, (x3)
O Lord, kum ba yah.



Someone's singing, Lord
kum ba yah, (x3)
O Lord, kum ba yah.

Someone's praying, Lord
kum ba yah, (x3)
O Lord, kum ba yah.

Baptism
Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
We rejoice that we walk the way of faith with you,
we are children of the same heavenly Father,
we welcome you.

We stand

Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Shake hands and say

'Peace be with you'.

Nativity

Wise men and worship



We sit

Hymn 634

The angel Gabriel

*At the end of the hymn
children are invited to come and stand around the altar.*

Bring this book with you.

The Offering
of the gifts

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.



Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

Eucharistic
Prayer

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.



This is our story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.
**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**



Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

We kneel or sit

Do the actions

Breaking of
bread

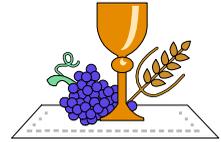
We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing
together

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**



Invitation

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Come to
the altar*

Please come and share in communion or a blessing.

You are very welcome - just follow the crowd!

*If you do not want communion but would like a blessing,
you may find it helpful to bring this service book with you so we know.*

Anthem

Zither Carol

Post-
Communion
Prayer

**Lord,
we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Travelling Crib



All: **Mary and Joseph are ready to continue their journey. Who will share their home for the night?**

New family: We are and we have some room.

All: **When will we see them again?**

New family: We will worship at the stable at Christmas. Will you join us?

All: **We would like to very much. Safe journey, Mary and Joseph.**

Please bow your head

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
 scatter the darkness from before your path,
 and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
 and the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and upon all those whom you love,
 this Advent and for ever . Amen

Hymn 645

The Holly and the Ivy vv 1-3, 6 Music Group *We stand*

Dismissal

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.
 With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.
 In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.
 In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

As we await our coming Saviour,
 go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



We hope you will stay for coffee after the service



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