

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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 for ever. Amen.

Carols during Communion

How far is it to Bethlehem?

What child is this?

In the bleak mid-winter

See amid the winter's snow (8)

After Communion

Son of Mary, Son of God, we have joined the worship of the angels; may we never lose that heavenly vision. Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news of your birth; help us to proclaim that message in word and deed, to your praise and glory. Amen.

Carol *Joy to the World (16)*

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us: **and we have seen his glory.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Material from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (London, 2000)*, and *New Patterns for Worship (London, 2002)* is included in this service, and is © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000-2.

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St Ursula's Church, Berne Service of Carols and Readings with Communion Christmas Day 2004

OFFICIANTS' COPY

WELCOME, NEWS and NOTICES

The Greeting

I bring you good news of great joy:

A Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

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.

Psalm 96

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- ¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Carol *Hark the herald angels sing (12)*

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.' So 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 the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:
and we have seen his glory.

Silence is kept

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

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

Carol *Good Christians all, rejoice (24) (omitting fourth line of each verse)(Verse 3 in harmony)*

Reading Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol *The Virgin Mary had a baby boy (2)*

Reading Luke 2:8-14

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

Carol *Away in a manger (7)(Verses 1 & 3 in harmony)*

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¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol *See him lying on a bed of straw (26)*

"What Does Christmas Mean To You?"

Affirmation of Faith

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. *cf Ephesians 3*
Amen.**

Intercession Chain

Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of
Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

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

Carol (Offertory) *O come, all ye faithful (13)*

thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

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Carols during Communion

*How far is it to Bethlehem? What child is this?
In the bleak mid-winter See amid the winter's snow (8)*

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Son of Mary, Son of God, we have joined the worship of the angels; may we never lose that heavenly vision. Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news of your birth; help us to proclaim that message in word and deed, to your praise and glory. Amen.

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
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FUTURE SERVICES:

**26 December 10:00 Short Eucharist
2 January 10:00 Eucharist**

Note that the office is closed all of next week.



St Ursula's Church, Berne Carols & Readings with Communion Christmas Day 2004

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The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:
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May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

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**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. cf Ephesians 3
Amen.**

Intercession Chain

Peace

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

Carol (Offertory) *O come, all ye faithful (13)*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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Lift up your hearts.

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It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
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In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for
sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you

Resources

Drama: What Does Christmas Mean To You?

Basic rules:

1. No more than one line each except for the microphone people
2. Everybody to 'freeze' in positions when not actually acting out his/her scene

Scene 1

2 people, microphone between them, which they hold in front of each group in turn:

Person 1: What does the word 'Christmas' mean to you?

Person 2: Oh, all sorts of things.....Music, of course....

2 -3 musicians playing a carol. One goes wrong. They start to argue:

Musician 1: That was your fault: you played a C# instead of a C natural!

Mus. 2: What do you mean?! It was her. She played a .. .etc

Mus. 3: I beg your pardon! You both.. .etc

Scene 2

Back to microphone people:

Pers. 2: Oh dear, that was a bit disappointing! What else do you think of?

Pers. 1: Presents! That's the best thing about Christmas.....

Group of friends discussing/boasting about what they got for Christmas:

Friend 1: I got aTrouble is, the batteries ran out after 3 minutes and there weren't any shops open to buy new ones

Friend 2: Well, my Dad gave me a The only problem is....

Friend 3: I had an England rugby shirt.... But it's the wrong size!

Etc...etc.....

Scene 3

Back to microphone conversation:

Pers. 2: I like shopping!

Mother and daughter/son. Both in a bad mood.

Mother: My feet are killing me etc..etc..

Daughter/Son (crossly): What d'you mean you won't give me any more money! I haven't bought your present yet!

Etc..etc..

Scene 4

Microphone people :

Pers. 1: The food's always good!

Something about everything being burned except the pudding - and everybody hates pudding!

Scene 5

Microphone people:

Pers. 2: There's all that free time to see your friends:

Boys playing football. Something gets broken. A parent blames the boys

Scene 6

Final comment from those holding the microphone

Person 1: I suppose Christmas also makes me think of Christ.

Person 2: Who???

Intercessions

CHRISTMAS PAPER-CHAIN

This prayer activity needs careful logistical planning. The equipment needs to be in the right place, and there need to be people around who know what is being planned and can act decisively at the right moment.

What you need

- a large number of individual strips for paper-chains
- a large number of pens.

What to do

- 1 Give out paper-chain strips and pens to everyone. Distribute through volunteers or have the materials already in the pews.
- 2 Invite everyone to write on one side of the strip of paper the names of the people with whom they will be spending Christmas Day, and on the other side, some special person or situation they want to pray for at Christmas time, such as the poor or lonely or homeless.
- 3 Explain that when we pray, we pray as a Church -altogether - and our strips of paper should therefore be joined up and taken to God together. In that way we will be praying for each other at Christmas (one side of the paper) and for special needs (the other side).
- 4 Ask people to make chains out of their strips and their neighbours', and have your prearranged people do the joining up of short chains into longer and longer ones, until ideally one entire chain is produced. These people need to have a supply of blank strips to do the final joining.
- 5 The complete chain can be arranged in a significant place, e.g. around the altar, symbolizing the people of God, with their prayers, gathering around him. When it is in place a final joining prayer can be made, bringing all the individual prayers together.

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