

St Andrew's Church, Bedford



Christmas Morning

All Age Eucharist

Welcome!

The celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas is one of the two great festivals of the Christian Year, alongside Easter. It proclaims the wonderful mystery of God dwelling among us as a human being, Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word, like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord, and God in cradle lies.

Thomas Pestel

Christmas is so much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, we remember the powerful truth that this babe is the Word made flesh for our salvation.

For our younger worshippers

Thank you for bringing your children to worship this morning; they are very welcome. We know young people can be very excited at Christmas and love to hear their voices! Please sit wherever you are comfortable, and feel free to feed your baby if needed. A children's area with toys and activities is found at the back of Church should you wish to use it.

How to follow the various parts of the service:

You can use this booklet to follow the service. The following symbols will help you to stand, sit or kneel at the times which are usual in this church; if you find it more comfortable to sit throughout, please do so.



The numbers of today's carols can be found on the hymn boards.



Hymn



Gathering

We get ready to worship God

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**



Lighting the Christmas Candle

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**



Confession

We say sorry to God

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.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
Forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

All **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.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
Forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**



Absolution

God forgives us

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



The Gloria

We sing God's praise

**Glory be to God in heaven,
and to all his people, peace.
Heav'nly King, almighty Father,
may our worship never cease;
May our voices ever thank you,
songs of blessing ever send,
may we always live to praise you,
for your glory without end.**

**Jesus, Son of God the Father,
merciful beyond compare,
all our sin, by you forgiven;
Lamb of God, receive our prayer.
Jesus, you alone are holy,
Jesus, you alone are Lord,
with the Holy Spirit reigning,
and the Father—glorious God!**



The Collect

We say the special prayer for Christmas Day.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

All **Amen.**



Reading

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn



Gospel Reading

At the start:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sermon

We learn more about God



The Creed

We say together what we believe about God

All **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 of Intercession

We say thank you and ask God for the things we need

We may use these responses:

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**



The prayers may end:

All **Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**



The Peace

We show that we are all friends in God

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace



The Offertory

We give back with thanks what God has given us

Hymn

When the altar is ready we say:

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embrace our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All **Amen**



The Eucharistic Prayer

God makes the bread and wine holy for us

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**



Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us the gift of yourself,
as a baby wrapped in swaddling bands,
to share our lives and show us your love.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All **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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,

gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,

send your Holy Spirit,

and change us more and more

to be like Jesus our Saviour.



Help us, Father, to love one another,
and to work together for that day
when the whole world is fed, suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary and all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

We say the prayer Jesus taught his friends

**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.**



Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us.**



All **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.**



The priest invites us to receive the bread and wine:

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**



The Distribution

We all receive bread and wine or a blessing

Hymns

The choir may sing a piece of music.



Prayer after Communion

We say thank you to God for our shared holy meal

The priest says a special prayer for Christmas Day.

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.

All **Amen**



All **We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**



The Dismissal

We get ready to do God's work in the world

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



Hymn

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

