

St Andrew's Church, Bedford  
COMMON WORSHIP



ORDER FOR THE EUCHARIST IN  
CHRISTMAS SEASON



**Welcome to this service.**

### **Children at St Andrew's**

Crèche facilities are available in the Quiet Room near the baby changing facilities (follow the aisle to the left behind the organ). The service can be heard here through the speaker system on the wall.

Children go to their groups after the opening hymn:

the Jigsaw group (3+)

the Jam group (6+)

the Jump group (11+)

These groups meet in the Church Centre and return to the church at the Peace.

### **This Service**

The posture directions in this order of service are optional: please stand, sit or kneel as you feel comfortable. Equally, if you need to stand at the altar rail to receive communion, please do so. Please tell a sidesperson if you need to receive communion or a blessing in the pews.

The musical notation for the sung parts of this order of service (indicated with a note - ♪) can be found on the cards in each pew.

A collection often is received during the service (page 7). UK taxpayers are requested to complete a GiftAid envelope or join the stewardship scheme to enhance the value of their giving.

## The Gathering

*A period of quiet prayer precedes the service as the organ is played.*

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

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

*Notices may be given*

*A Hymn is sung. Hymn numbers are on the boards and in the Notice Sheet.  
At Midnight Mass, incense is used and a procession accompanies this hymn.*

## Prayer of Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*A minister uses these or other suitable words*

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.

*cf Matthew 1.21*

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.**

*The president says*

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

*All* **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* ♪ **Glory to God, Glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest.**

*Repeated as a refrain \**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory. \***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. \***

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. \*  
(Amen.)**

## **The Collect**

*Following a moment of quiet, the president says the Collect, and all respond*

**All Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### **Readings**

*Please sit. At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn is sung.*

### **Gospel Reading**

*We stand for the Gospel which is introduced with these or similar words.  
Alleluias may be sung before and after the Gospel reading.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**All Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**All ♪ Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All ♪ Praise to you, O Christ. (Alleluia)**



## **Sermon**

*Please sit after the opening prayer*

## **The Creed**

*Please stand*

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel. These responses may be used*

**Holy God** (or) **Lord, in your mercy.**  
*All* **hear our prayer.** **hear our prayer.**

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

**Rejoice!**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*Stand. The president introduces the Peace with these or other words,*

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.**

*A minister may say*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*With a handshake and the words "peace be with you," all may exchange a sign of peace. At some morning services, the children and young people return from their groups and may share their learning with us.*

## Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A hymn is sung.*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*





## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

All **Amen.**



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

(or)

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise 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 the 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:

*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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith  
*All* ♪ **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**



## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Sit or kneel*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
*All* **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.**

*(or)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**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**

*The president breaks the consecrated 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,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The president may say this invitation to communion*

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

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

*This prayer may be said before the distribution*

**All Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs  
from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**



*The Agnus Dei is said or sung.*

**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 president and people receive communion.*

*Communicant members of all Christian churches are welcome to make the Communion following the directions of the sidespeople. Others, including children, are invited to come to the altar-rail to receive a blessing. If you would like to receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you.*

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*



## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion prayer is said.*

*This prayer may be said*

**All Generous God,  
you have fed us at your heavenly table.  
Set us on fire with your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine like lights before his face,  
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.  
Amen.**

## *The Dismissal*

*The blessing is given with these or similar words,*

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.

**All Amen.**

*A hymn is sung.*

*A minister says*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**



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