



The Seven Towers Benefice



A Service of Holy Communion
for
Christmas Night

All **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

¶ The Dismissal

Hymn *During this hymn we turn to face the font.*

The Dismissal Gospel

When the gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the good news of the word made flesh
according to N...
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessing

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
All **Glory, thanks and praise to God. Amen.**

The ministers and people depart.

¶ The Gathering

Words of welcome

Hymn

The Greeting

The president says:

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

All **and also with you**

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires are 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

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.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:

All **forgive us and heal us**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All **forgive us 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:

All **forgive us and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:

All **forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All **forgive us and heal us.**

2.

Giving of Communion

All **We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.**

Amen

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died and lives for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

If you normally receive Holy Communion please come forward when invited. If you would like a blessing please bring this service booklet with you to avoid any confusion.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

11.

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 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.**

We sit or kneel and keep a moment of silence.

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

The Absolution

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

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

We stand and sing.

Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of joy and peace we bring,
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing:
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,
glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin,
only Son of God the Father,
you have brought us peace within:
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin.

You, O Son of God, are holy,
you we praise with one accord;
none in heaven or earth is like you,
only you are Christ the Lord
with the Father, and the Spirit,
ever worshipped and adored.

Tune: Praise, my soul

John Goss (1800-1880)

The Collect

We remain standing and the president introduces a period of silent prayer.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation
of that life on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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.

All **Amen.**

We sit.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

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.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says:

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.
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 angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we proclaim your great and glorious name
for ever praising you and saying:

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.**

Hymn

We remain standing.

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.**

When the Gospel is complete the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the lord.

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

Sermon

Let us declare our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

Gospel Reading

The Creed

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel.

Father, in this most holy night your Son our Saviour
was born as a child amongst us.
Renew your church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God

All **Hear our prayer**

Each of the short prayers ends with the words:

All Holy God
Hear our prayer.

Father in this most Holy night angels and shepherds
worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints,
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We stand.

The Peace

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,
peace to those who are far off
and peace to those who are near.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection is made for the work of the Church.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**