

# Morning Prayer at Christmas

[2020]



*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
(Isaiah 9:6a)*

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## Call to Worship

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

*All* **Eternity shut in a span.**

Summer in winter, day in night,

*All* **heaven in earth and God in man.**

Great little one whose all-embracing birth

*All* **brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.**

*We listen to a CAROL*

## The Lighting of the Advent Candles

God our Father, today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.

Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,

to live in the light of your Son

and to share the good news of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who has come into the world.

**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.

*[Silence]*

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

We have sinned:

*All* **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:

*All* **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:

*All* **forgive 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 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 and heal us.**

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

### The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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.**

### The Blessing

Christ the Son of God  
perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts  
with the good news of his kingdom.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*We listen to a final CAROL*

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

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### Canticle [from Colossians 1, Philipians 2 & Matthew 1]

Your are to give him the name, Jesus,

*All* **for he will save his people from their sins.**

Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the first born of all creation.

*All* **For in him, all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.**

He is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.

*All* **He gave up the glory of heaven  
and took the form of a servant.**

In humility he walked the path of obedience  
even to death on the cross.

*All* **Therefore God has raised him to the highest place,  
and gave him the name above every name.**

That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*All* **He will be called Emmanuel:  
for through him God is with us.  
Alleluia. Amen.**

### The Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration  
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*[A moment of silence]*

*All* **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. Amen.**

First Reading

*At the end:* This is the word of the Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

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 listen to a CAROL*

The Nicene Creed

**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:

*This response may be used:*

Holy God, [or] Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer**

*At the end:* Merciful Father

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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