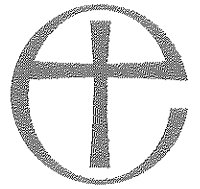


# *Morning Worship*

## *Christmas Season*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

### **Preparation**

*All* O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

You laid the foundation of the earth  
*All* **and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

### **Praise**

Blessed are you, sovereign God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,  
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,  
may the light of your love be born in us  
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*A hymn*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

*Psalmody*

*A psalm is said.*

### **Psalm 117**

- 1 O praise the Lord, all you nations; ◆  
praise him, all you peoples.
- 2 For great is his steadfast love towards us, ◆  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

*All* Alleluia.

*Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*One or more readings appointed for the day are read.*

**John 21: 19b-25**

After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

*This responsory may follow*

The Word of life which was from the beginning  
**All we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away  
and the true light is already shining;

**All the Word of life which was from the beginning.**

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,  
and touched with our hands,

**All we proclaim to you.**

For our fellowship is with the Father,  
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All The Word of life which was from the beginning  
we proclaim to you.**

Reflection: *a short homily is offered*

## *Gospel Canticle*

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said,*

**All To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.**

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 **Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Luke 1.68–79*

**All** **Glory to the Father and to the Son**  
**And to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning is now**  
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All** **To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,**  
**and all the heavenly hosts now sing,**  
**Glory to God in the highest.**

### *Affirmation of Faith –The Nicene Creed*

Let us declare our faith in God the Holy Trinity.

**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.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

*Intercessions are offered*

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect*

Merciful Lord,  
cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church:  
that, being enlightened by the teaching  
of your blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John,  
we may so walk in the light of your truth,  
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord.  
Amen.

*A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

*A hymn*

## The Conclusion

### *Prayer of 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.

All **Amen.**

### *The Grace*

All May God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

All **Amen.**

All Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**