

Christmas Day Online Order of Service

Introit

Welcome and Introduction

Hymn

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood he would honour and obey,
love and watch the gentle mother in whose tender arms he lay:
Christian children all should be kind, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern: day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

Penitence

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Collect for Christmas Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10.

New Testament Reading: John 1.1-14. Read by John.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes;
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

Bishop Joanna's Christmas Message

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

Hymn

**Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise: join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

The Blessing