



Order of Service
25th December 2021
Christmas Day

(Please stand for the Introit)

Introit: 228 (AHB) vv. 1, 2, 3 & 7
(People may be seated)

Call to Worship:

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *(Luke 2: 14)*

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favours! *(Luke 2: 14)*

Acknowledgement:

Hymn: 231 (AHB) 'Christians awake salute the happy morn.'
(People may be seated)

Lighting of the Christmas candle:

Voice One:

After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to Christmas Day.

Voice Two:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; they lived in a land of shadows but now light is shining upon them. *(Isaiah 9: 2)*
(Four coloured candles are lit first and then the white candle)

Voice One:

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *(John 1: 9)*

Voice Two:

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. *(John 1: 14)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ our Lord: he was the Word before all creation. Through him all things come to be; not one thing has its being but through him.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

To God our creator, born as one of us, be all praise and glory. With all the company of heaven, we worship you saying:
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come;
to him be glory and honour for ever and ever.



As we worship with the shepherds before the newborn child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith. Father God, we are sorry for the things we do and say and think which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves. Please forgive us and help us to love you and other people more and more.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life (*John 3: 16*)

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Doxology: 772 (AHB) 'Worship, honour, glory, blessing.'

Readings: Isaiah 62: 6-12, Luke 2: 8-20

Hymn: 227 (AHB) 'Hark! the herald angels sing.'

Sermon: 'The birth of Eternity'

Hymn: 242 (AHB) 'Away in a manger.'

Prayers of the People:

O Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Hymn: 224 (AHB) 'Joy to the world.'

Blessing:

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be ours this Christmas.

Amen.

Recessional: 782 (TiS) 'Go now in peace.'

