

Jesus

a new kind of love, witness to that love in our lives.

With Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Blessing

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King and Peace to us on earth

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us our Lord Emmanuel



St George's Church



Christmas Eve Service

7.00pm

Call to Worship:

(based on Isaiah 9:1,6b; Psalm 96:11-13)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined.

**Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it.**

Let the fields exalt, and everything in them. Let all the trees sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming, he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

**And he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God;
Prince of Peace.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We have waited with hope for God to bring justice and righteousness.

We have waited with peace for God's shalom to be felt.

We have waited with joy, celebrating the things God has already done.

We have waited with love, awed by how God has shown love to us.

Tonight we light the Christ candle to remind us that the Light of the world
was born this night.

He brings us hope, peace, joy and love.

The candle is lit

**Almighty God, Let his light shine within our hearts tonight even more
brightly than it shines from the candles in this place. Help us to hear
your word and to celebrate your everlasting love through him. Amen.**

Come now, Spirit of God, transform us with your power.
Brood over these things and make us one body.
May creation be made whole through the new birth
of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

(The bread is broken)

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

We pray together as we sing:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

Invitation

All are welcome to receive communion.

Sentence After Communion

“Do not be afraid, Listen, I bring you good news of great joy
to be shared by all people.

Today, in the town of David, Jesus the Christ has been born.”
(Luke 2:10b, 11a)

Concluding Prayer

**God of love, may we, for whom the heavens have opened,
never lose that heavenly vision.
May we who, like the shepherds, have seen in the birth of**



Loving God, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for on this day you were delivered as one of us, a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to let the broken victims go free. There, with the woman who gave you birth, and with all who have loved you throughout the ages, we praise you saying:

[spoken]

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God; hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; who, on the night when he was delivered over to death, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

For as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are proclaiming Christ’s death until he comes.

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Carol:

Te Harinui

1 Not on a snowy night , by star or candlelight
Nor by an angel band, there came to our dear land

*Te Harinui Te Harinui
Te Hari-nu-i
Glad tid-ings of great joy*

2 But on a summer day, within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard the great and glorious word

*Te Harinui Te Harinui
Te Hari-nu-i
Glad tid-ings of great joy*

3 The people gathered round upon the grassy ground
And heard the preacher say, I bring to you this day

*Te Harinui Te Harinui
Te Hari-nu-i
Glad tid-ings of great joy*

4 Now in this blessed land, united heart and hand
We praise the glorious birth and sing to all the earth

*Te Harinui Te Harinui
Te Hari-nu-i
Glad tid-ings of great joy*

Confession

At Christmas, as we remember that God gives us many gifts.
Jesus shows us how to make use of these gifts and especially



the gift of God's love.

We are expected to love each other, but so often we fail and need to ask God's forgiveness.

Now in the silence of our hearts, we say to God we are sorry.

(Silence)

Assurance of Pardon

God forgives us. Be at peace.

All glory to you, gracious God for coming among us in Jesus Christ; as we live in your presence, may we celebrate the wonder of life and encourage others to believe, rejoice, and experience your love. Amen.

Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. 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!"

2. 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

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the
Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created.

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;

Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born for our salvation
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

The Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.



to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Christmas Eve Message

Prayers

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

(Exchange the sign of Christ's peace with those around you)

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

(During the singing of this carol your offering will be received.)

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye,
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;

Refrain :

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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!"

Readings: Acts 13:16-26

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about 450 years.

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. God



testified concerning him: 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

"From this man's descendants, God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised. Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

"Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

Carol: Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

2. Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born

Christ the Savior is born

3. Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Luke 1:67-79

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David

(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—

to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

to give his people the knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God,

by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

