



# Holy Communion



**7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 10am**

ALL SAINTS  
**KIDS**  
AT 10AM

ALL SAINTS  
**YOUTH**  
AT 10AM

## **Welcome!**

**We are delighted that you have joined with us today as we  
gather to worship God our Creator,  
Redeemer and Sustainer.**

### **Welcome**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you:  
**and also with you.**

### **Welcome and Notices**

### **Kids and Youth Groups**

### **Opening Prayer:**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognize his presence with us.

**Silence is kept...**

As God's people we have gathered:  
**Let us worship him together.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Hymn:**

**As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.**

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.**

In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King!

**Invitation to Confession:**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith. cf Malachi 4.2

**Confession:**

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned: **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: **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: **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

**Absolution:**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**New Testament Reading:**

**Ephesians 3: 1-12 (pg. 190) Paul, the least of all the saints is called to bring the Gentiles the good news of Christ.**

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for you,  
comfort your sorrows and answer your prayerfulness,  
guiding your steps in the way that is true.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;  
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.**

**Gospel Reading:**

**Please remain standing for the Gospel reading.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world. Alleluia.**

**cf 1 Timothy 3.16**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.****

**Matthew 2: 1-12 (pg. 3) Magi from the east come to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Revd. Buffy Langdown**

**Prayers of Intercessions:**

**Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

**Mission Prayer:**

**God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions,  
and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Peace:**

Once we were far off,  
but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near  
through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Peace be with you,  
**and also with you.**

We share a sign of God's peace with one another



**Hymn:**

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:**

Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in praise  
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

### **Communion:**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us;

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread:**

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Giving of Communion:**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

***The Body and Blood of Christ keep us in eternal life.***

*Please come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing.*

**Song:**

**Meekness and majesty,  
Manhood and Deity,  
In perfect harmony,  
The Man who is God.  
Lord of eternity  
Dwells in humanity,  
Kneels in humility  
And washes our feet.**

***O what a mystery,  
Meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God,  
This is your God.***

**Father's pure radiance,  
Perfect in innocence,  
Yet learns obedience  
To death on a cross.  
Suffering to give us life,  
Conquering through sacrifice,  
And as they crucify  
Prays: 'Father forgive.'**

**Wisdom unsearchable,  
God the invisible,  
Love indestructible**

**In frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity,  
Stooping so tenderly,  
Lifts our humanity  
To the heights of His throne.**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**Kids and Youth Groups:**

**Hymn:**

**We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

***O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,**

**King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

**Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

**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.**

**Dismissal**

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

***Please stay for refreshments served in our church hall.***