

Marston and Elsfield Benefice

Worship at Home 2 ***Advent, Christmas & Epiphany***



**“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all the people.”**

Luke 2:10

This new additional resource is to go with the Worship at Home booklet issued in March 2020. If you would like new copies, please contact our administrator on 580354 or email administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk.

Dear Friends I am writing this in November, looking ahead to a very strange and different Christmas. But even this year will not be as strange or frightening as the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child. Angels appeared to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds and always had to introduce themselves by saying, “Do not be afraid!” It is a crazy, wild idea that God should love this broken, dangerous world so much that he sent his Son to come and live among us. But that is the heart of the Christian faith. God is not a distant, uncaring figure. He is a loving Father, who treasures each one of us and sent Jesus to show us the full extent of his love – love that is greater than hate, fear, and death itself. Jesus is named ‘Emmanuel,’ which means ‘God is with us.’ Now and forever. Amen.

We are invited to hang on to this promise through these strange and challenging times. You are not alone, and we are travelling together. You are always in my prayers. Revd Skye.

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Prayers for Advent

Loving Father,
we have done a lot of waiting, of sitting and reflecting
in the last few months.

Perhaps wondering how to shop, where to walk
or how to stay in contact with friends
but with shut churches
we may have begun to lose sight of you.
Help us, we pray, during Advent
to wonder about the infinite love and resources you
provide,
to walk with you each day,
and to always stay in contact with you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Gracious God
God of the weary
God of the barely making it through each day
God of the weighed down
God of the broken sleepers
God of the fatigued
God of the busted willed
God of the loneliest
God of the hunkered down
God of all this
Draw near to us this day
This night
Always
Amen



Tim Watson@beatliturgist

Dear Heavenly Father,
help me to hear your voice.
Touch me once again.
Give me the courage
to be your beloved.
Give me courage to choose joy.
I need you now this Christmas.
Be born in me again. Today.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bonnie Gray



Advent God, we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey
we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of a Saviour. Amen

John Birch

After Annunciation

This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.

Madeleine l'Engle

Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

Prayers for Christmas

Loving Father,
Our lives have been filled with news of sickness and death.

We have been stepping back rather than forwards.
This Christmas let us embrace the promise of hope held in the new life born out of struggle and hardship.
Let the light of the Christ Child illuminate our lives.
In Jesus' name. Amen

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice:
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Wilda English

Almighty God,
who has poured upon us the new light
of your Incarnate Word;
Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts
may shine forth in our lives
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace.
You are no longer a babe in the manger.
You are Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
And we still celebrate you as Lord—this Christmas and always.

Rebecca Barlow Jordan



Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

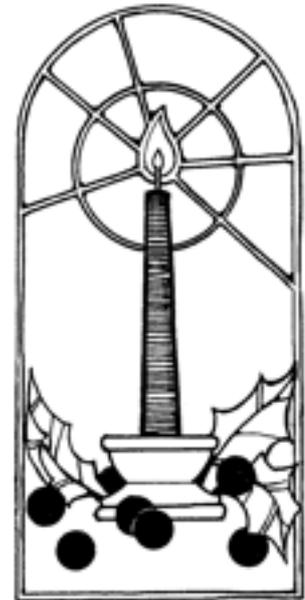
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love
all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil
by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson



O God, make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship
and a heavenly father's care;
and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling
block

to children, nor to straying feet,
but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power.
Make it a gateway to your eternal kingdom.

Bishop Thomas Ken

Prayers for the Season of Epiphany

The wise men went in faith on a journey into the unknown.

Give us the faith to travel into the unknown country of the new normal.

Amen

We are drawn to your feet in worship
Your creation facing its creator
Hearts laid bare by your light
Humbly asking for your mercy.

We come to you as a people in need of assurance and forgiveness.

We come to you as a people in need of healing and wholeness.

We come dependent upon your love.
Draw us close.

Enfold us in your arms.

Fill us with your Spirit
that we might reflect your light
within this dark world,
speak your Word with boldness
and draw others to your feet.

We ask this through your dear Son Jesus Christ.

Amen

John Birch

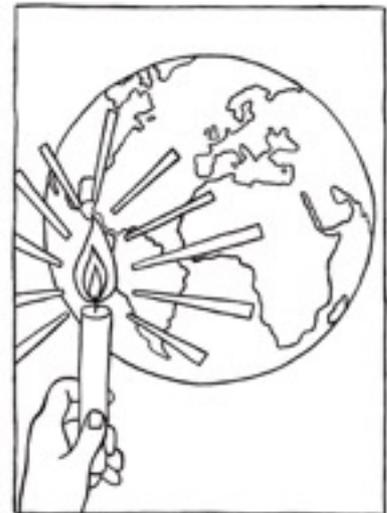


Lord and giver of all good things,
the Magi travelled for many miles
to bring the gifts to the Christ child.
We thank you for the many gifts that you give us,
especially the gifts of life and love.
May we share these gifts with open hearts and open hands,
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart.
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.

Howard Thurman



Bible readings and Collects for Sundays

Sunday 29th November 2020 The 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-8; Mark 13:24-End

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday 6th December 2020 The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:8-end; Mark 1:1-8

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Sunday 13th December 2020 The 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-end; Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 20th December 2020 The 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-8; Luke 1:26-38

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday 24th December 2020 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; John 1:1-14

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday 25th December 2020 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Sunday 27th December 2020 John the Evangelist

1 John 1; Psalm 117; John 21:19b-end

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the 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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday 3rd January 2021 The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Matthew 2:1-12

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 10th January 2021 The Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All Most merciful God,

we confess to you,

before the whole company of heaven and one another,

that we have sinned in thought, word and deed

and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins,

heal us by your Spirit

and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Alleluia.

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world, we pray

That you, with steadfast love, would keep

Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,

From fears and terrors of the night;

Tread underfoot our deadly foe

That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done

Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;

And Holy Spirit, by whose breath

Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

**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.**

ADVENT

Psalm 143

Short Reading: the following or some other

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Mark 13.35-end

CHRISTMAS

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

Short Reading: the following or some other

In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1.4,5

EPIPHANY

Psalm 16

Short Reading: the following or some other

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Titus 2.11

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

**All Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

**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 Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

ADVENT

Collect

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.

Heal our wounds,

calm our fears

and give us peace;

through Jesus our Redeemer.

CHRISTMAS

Collect

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
now and for ever.

EPIPHANY

Collect

King of kings and Lord of lords,
making the true light to shine:
lighten our darkness now and evermore
that with our lips and in our lives
we may praise you;
for you are our God, now and for ever.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
All Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSES

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus



Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(The First Candle is lit)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



Second Candle - The Candle of Peace **The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus**

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfil all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

(First Candle, the Candle of Hope is lit)

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

(Second Candle, the Candle of Peace is lit)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



Third Candle - The Candle of Love

John The Baptist

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus
Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God Leader:
Today is the Third Sunday of
Advent and we will light the Candle
of Love.**

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.
(Candles of Hope, and Peace is lit.)

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(Third Candle, the Candle of Love is lit here)

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen



Fourth Candle - The Candle of Joy

Mary the Mother of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus
Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.
(Candles of Hope, Peace, and Love are lit)

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

From hope, peace, and love grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy is lit)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



The Last Candle - The Birth of Christ **Christmas Day**

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ
our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle (Christmas Day) Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now.)

All: Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Communion Service

Let us worship our new born King and Saviour,
born of Mary in the town of Bethlehem,
Jesus, Son of God

ALL: We worship and adore you

CAROL: 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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
 Sing choirs of angels,
 sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
 “Glory to God in the highest”;
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

ALL: and also with you

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;

Jesus is our King

As the Christmas candle is lit

Jesus is the light of the world

Jesus is our Way

With Jesus even dark places are light

Jesus is the truth

In Jesus we shall live for ever

Jesus is our life

Prayers to say Sorry

**Heavenly 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**

Hear God's words of forgiveness..

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BIBLE READING - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20

Our Prayers

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Jesus, whose mother was Mary:
we pray for our mums and dads,
brothers and sisters and all our families.
Lord Jesus **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in the manger:
we pray for those who have no homes,
and those who are hungry and thirsty and cold today.
Lord Jesus **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with animals
we pray for our beautiful world,
help us to look after it.
Lord Jesus **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:
we pray for the leaders of all countries
and we ask for peace in our world.
Lord Jesus **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel:
we pray for all people who are in need,
those who are not well and those who are sad
Lord Jesus **hear our prayer**

ALL: 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

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
ALL: And also with you.

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

Let us lift up our hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Therefore with the woman who gave you birth,
with the man who took you on his shoulders,
with the shepherds who found you in a feeding trough,

with the wise men who knew of you from the silent stars,
and with the aged prophets who saw in you the redemption of the
world:

We sing to you.

With the angels and archangels who envelop us,
With all the saints before us and beside us,
With brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south:

We sing to you.

And with our loved ones,
separate from us now,
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,

**We sing the hymn of unending praise:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of truth and light,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you,
O God of strength and vulnerability.
You are the midwife of our lives,
who pulls us, kicking, into life
and breathes Spirit into us.
Blessed is your servant Mary
and blessed is the holy child of her womb,
born into poverty and exile,
to proclaim the good news to the poor,
and freedom to all who are oppressed.

Blessed is your son, Jesus,
who emptied himself of power

and became foolishness for our sake:
heaven's child laid in a manger;
God's anointed laid in a tomb.
Born again from the shuddering earth,
he is embodied forever
in his living creation
and in these, its fruits of bread and wine.

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 thanks, broke it, and said:
"This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:
**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."**

Therefore, here in this place,
we celebrate the life that was born at Bethlehem,
the life that Jesus has shared
among his community through the centuries,
And shares with us now.

Made one with him,
and thus one with each other,
we lay before you these gifts of bread and wine,
in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
for here we offer and present to you ourselves,
our bodies, minds and spirits,
to be a holy and continuous sacrifice to you.

Come now, O Spirit of Christ,
Brood over these bodily things,
this bread and this wine.

Because you are one with us, O Christ,
make us one with you as we pray the prayer you taught us:

**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 forever.
Amen.**

(Through a true desire to receive Christ, lively faith and a genuine love for Christ and his people, the Church invites you into spiritual communion; you may eat and drink your bread and wine at home to symbolically share in the spiritual communion of which you are already a part)

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen

**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.**

THE BLESSING

May our lives and our prayers be like lights shining in dark places.
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and your loved ones always.
Amen

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