

ORDER OF SERVICE
25 December 2020
Christmas Day

GATHER			
Call to Worship (inc Psalm)	Responsive		Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	O come all ye faithful (vv 1,2,3,5,6,7)	TIS 304	Rev Allan Smith
Candle Lighting & Prayer	Responsive		
Hymn/Song	Good Christians all rejoice	TIS 313	Rev Allan Smith
Welcome	Rev Allan Smith		
Children's Address ?	N/A		
Hymn/Song	The first nowell the angel did say	TIS 301	
RESPOND			
Prayer of Adoration	Rev Allan Smith		
Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness	Rev Allan Smith		
Passing the Peace			
Old Testament	Is 52:7-10		Pam Elliot
Epistle	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)		Pam Elliot
Hymn/Song	Angels from the realms of glory	TIS 309	Rev Allan Smith
Gospel	John 1:1-14		Geoff Rohde
Hymn/Song	Child in a Manger (infant of Mary)	TIS 319	Rev Allan Smith
Message	<i>A light to lighten our darkness</i>		Rev Allan Smith
Video	Matthew West – The hope of Christmas (video)		
BLESS			
Offering/Dedication	Rev Allan Smith		
Notices of the Church	Incl. Christmas Bowl video		Rev Allan Smith
Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer	Rev Allan Smith		
Hymn/Song	Joy to the World, the Lord is come	TIS 268	Rev Allan Smith
Benediction/Going Out Song			
Benediction/Going Out Song	Joy to the World (instrumental reprise)	TIS 268	

Preaching	Rev Allan Smith
Worship Introduction	Rev Allan Smith
Notices of the Church & Prayers of the People	Rev Allan Smith
Music selector	Rev Allan Smith
Piano	Craig Binney
Backup Singers	Fiona Binney, Joy Duffield
Guitars	
Drums	
Sound System	David Potter
Data Operator	David Potter
Power Point Producer	David Potter
Bible Readings	Pam Elliot, Geoff Rohde
Offering Collectors/Counters	Ian Rippingale +
Communion Bread	NA

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wonder of wonders,
God has come to us!

**Not as a judge, but a Saviour,
not in power, but as a servant.**

Wonder of wonders,
God comes to us!

**Not in silence, but in the Word made flesh;
not in the shadows, but bringing Light.**

Wonder of wonders!
God is with us!

Let us worship God.

SONG [O come all ye faithful](#)

CHRISTMAS DAY CANDLE LIGHTING

SONG [Good Christians all rejoice](#)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*if needed*)

God of light, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus Christ. We come before you with wonder and delight that you come to us in the child born in a manger. Be with us on this day of birth and rebirth. Come, honour us with the presence of your gracious, joyful Spirit. Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy. Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. Glory to you in the highest, O God, glory in the highest! Amen.

SONG [The first nowell the angel did say](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

We greet your coming, God, with wonder:
You come to be with us; yet you remain far greater than we can imagine.
You are near; yet your wisdom sets you apart from us.
You appear among us; yet we cannot describe your glory.

We greet your coming, God, with repentance:
We are more or less satisfied with ourselves; but your presence exposes our sin and failure.
We are self-confident; but you challenge our confidence in ourselves.
We are proud of our understanding; but you show us that we do not know everything.

We greet your coming, God, with joy:
We had no true idea of what you are like; but you have shown us yourself in Jesus Christ.
We felt our human life could be of no importance to you; but you have shown its value by appearing among us as a man.
We are aware of the gulf between us and you; but you have bridged it with love.

God, we greet your coming in Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Caryl Micklem, *Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that Jesus is Lord.

We confess that your love has come into the world, incarnate in the person of Jesus the Christ, and that you have been revealed to us through his love, grace, and truth.

We confess that through Christ we have the promise of eternal life, the hope of salvation, and the forgiveness of our sins.

We confess that through Christ we are challenged to love our neighbours as if they were ourselves, we are encouraged to seek reconciliation and wholeness, and we are empowered to work for your justice.

We confess that you are the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

We confess that you are the Love that saves the world.

In the name of Emmanuel, God With Us, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ, the exact likeness of God's own being,
has come into the world full of grace and truth.
He has made purification for sins,
and to all who believe in him,
he gives the power to become children of God.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, be at peace
for your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT [Isaiah 52:7-10](#)

EPISTLE [Hebrews 1:1-4](#)

SONG [Angels from the realms of glory](#)

GOSPEL [John 1:1-14](#)

SONG [Child in the manger](#)

SERMON [A light to lighten our darkness](#) [Sermon.mp3](#)

VIDEO [The hope of Christmas](#) – Matthew West

OFFERING AND PRAYER

Loving God, receive and bless these gifts which we give in response to the greatest gift of all - your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. May our lives and this offering towards the Christmas Bowl be used to reveal your love in as many ways and to as many people as possible. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, we thank you for the message of love that Christmas brings to a world where hatred and violence is experienced by so many people in so many places. Help us to reveal in our lives the love that Jesus so embodied, the love that Paul wrote about so eloquently - the love that is patient and kind; the love that is never envious or boastful, or arrogant or rude; the love that does not insist on its own way and is not irritable or resentful; that in all things we may put love first.

O God, we thank you for the message of joy that Christmas brings to a world grown used to suffering. We remember in your presence the hungry and homeless men, women and young people, our brothers and sisters in Christ, who cry out for a word of tenderness, a touch of love, a sign of hope, some practical help; we remember also those for whom this season is clouded by loneliness or anxiety or bereavement.

(a short silence is observed here as we remember those known to us, or unknown to us personally but who are victims throughout the world of disaster, war, violence, terrorism, abuse or accident - those who suffer in some way at this time)

We pray that they may be kept from bitterness and despair as they remember the birth of him who bore our grief and carried our sorrows, yet who was born at Bethlehem that people might experience life in all its fullness.

O God, we thank you for the message of kindness that Christmas brings to a world grown self-centred and cynical through greed. Help us to remember that Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve. May we all find true joy and fulfilment in giving ourselves in service to others as we remember together the birth of him who came to give himself to us.

O God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our troubled world. Give peace among nations; peace in lands torn apart by warring factions; peace in our homes and in our hearts as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from prayers from 'WORSHIP NOW': D.Cairns, I Pitt-Watson, J.A.Whyte, T.B. Honeyman, The St Andrew Press, Edinburgh 1972)

Now let us pray as Jesus has taught us, saying,

**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.**

SONG [Joy to the World, the Lord is come](#)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world and the Prince of Peace that this world desperately needs. We thank and bless you for coming to earth to die on the cross for our sins, so that all who believe in your name might be given peace with the Father and may receive your peace and love into their hearts.

Shine the light of your love deep within the hearts of all those that do not know you as Saviour. Light the minds of those that are blinded to the truth of the glorious gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord. We pray that You would draw many into your arms of forgiveness so that they too might be made right before God and receive His peace into their hearts at this time, so that the goodwill that was promised by the angels so many years ago, might become their portion during this Christmas season.

Grant all those that know and love you as Saviour, to be specially blessed this Christmas and may you draw each one ever closer to your heart of love, in a world that is becoming darker, so that the light of your truth may shine through us to a world who needs Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Christmas>

WORD OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go now, and join your voices
with the song of joy in all creation.
Announce peace.
Herald salvation.
Let the earth know that God reigns.

And may God sustain you with his powerful Word.
May Christ Jesus be born as Saviour within you.
And may the Spirit reveal to you the glory
of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

And may the grace...

Christmas Day

John 1:1-14

Leader: On this Christmas Day, we remember the humble birth of that special child who came into the world two thousand years ago.

People: **It took place in a lowly stable in a little place called Bethlehem—the Town of David.**

Leader: That special child was none other than the Son of God.

People: **He came to bring us hope for the future; the promise of peace; the experience of joy; and most importantly, the knowledge that each and every one of us is greatly loved by our God.**



Light all four Advent Candles

Leader: We now light this candle—the Christ Candle, symbolic of Christ’s continuing presence in the world; and of our longing for the day of his coming again in glory. Come Lord Jesus.

The candle is lit.

Leader: Let us join in prayer.

Prayer: **Loving God, while we patiently wait for Christ’s return and the establishment of your kingdom, enable hope, peace, joy and love to burn brightly among all your people—and be faithfully shared with this world that you love so dearly. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.**