



A Christmas Communion

The Gathering

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him... may have eternal life. (Jn 3.16)

A Carol 110 O come all you faithful

Prayer of Preparation

Jesus said: *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness* (John 8.12)

Lord, our God, in Jesus Christ your Son
You come as light into our lives:
Light to search our deepest thoughts and desires;
Light to dispel all our unholy darkness with your healing forgiveness;
Light of truth, illuminating our minds and hearts to know and feel more of your love;
Light of life enabling us to grow in your Spirit until we are truly ourselves, complete in Jesus.

A Song of the Incarnation

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all creation.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Light has dawned upon us, who dwell in darkness.
For a child has been born for us, a son has been given to us.**

God is love; He has shown his love to us by sending his only Son into the world to bring us life.

**We know how generous our Lord, Jesus Christ has been;
He was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that through his poverty we may become rich.**

God has spoken to us in his Son whom he has made heir to the whole universe.

The Word became flesh; he came to dwell among us, and we saw his glory, such glory as befits the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

A Carol **113** **O little town of Bethlehem**

Readings **Luke 2: 1 - 20**
Matthew 2: 1 - 12

A Carol **106** **Hark the herald angels sing**

Sermon

A Carol **121** **As with gladness men of old**

Intercessions **"Jesus enters in"**

Jesus entered into the everyday world at Bethlehem

where angels mingled with shepherds; while a divine miracle took place in an inn stable, and earth and heaven intertwined.

Let us remember our everyday life; in our church, our community, our families, among our neighbours; asking the Lord, Jesus Christ to enter every part, bringing everyday miracles of heaven's love.

(particular items may be included)

You enter our lives, Lord Jesus: **We welcome you.**

Jesus entered into the everyday world at Bethlehem

the world of military power, intrigue and suspicion; of religion and politics; of wealth and poverty.

Let us remember our world leaders in the United Nations; those in local and national government, asking for Jesus Christ to enter into all these everyday affairs to establish his reign of justice and freedom, peace and compassion.

(particular items may be included)

You enter our lives, Lord Jesus: **We welcome you.**

Jesus entered into the everyday world at Bethlehem

into the life of an ordinary special family; into a home with God's way of life and faith:

Let us remember our own families and the Church family, asking for Jesus to enter into all our life together, helping us to be faithful witnesses to his Kingdom Way and through us giving hope of a time when the world will be a peaceful family immersed in truth and justice.

(particular items may be included)

You enter our lives, Lord Jesus: **We welcome you.**

Jesus entered into the everyday world at Bethlehem

and made it the door to everywhere
with the promise of a new world;
where wise people seek and value his truth and his Kingdom;
Let us remember people of every race, faith, age and culture
who cry out in need for guidance, peace, healing, comfort, companionship and all the
necessities for life, asking for our Lord to be the answer to every human need.

(particular items may be included)

You enter our lives, Lord Jesus: **We welcome you.**

Lord Jesus Christ, the church and the world need you to come in. The door is here in my
mind, my heart, my life.

Come in Lord, the door is open.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our father in heaven, may your holy name be honoured;
May your kingdom come;
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrong we have done,
just as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing without keeping us safe from evil.
The kingdom, with all power and glory, belongs to you alone.**

Offering

The Communion

The act of Communion was given to us by our Lord as a way of remembering him and
receiving him into our lives - sharing his resurrection life - the life of his Spirit in us. He
used the everyday tokens of bread and wine with which we receive sustenance for our
bodies.

Today we take the bread and wine to say:
Lord Jesus, come into my life; be born again in me.

The apostle John in his story of Jesus, tells us - *The Word became a human being and,
full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as
the Father's only Son.*

The Lord Jesus is born FOR all people:
He is born IN us who believe in him:
He is God with us; God for us.
Creator, Saviour, Lord.
He comes to us with the Father's Spirit-gifts:
Love, reconciliation, peace, and eternal life.

We give thanks to God our Father

The apostle Paul wrote:
No one can deny how great is the truth of our faith:
Christ Jesus came in human form;
he was shown to be right by the Spirit;
he was seen by angels;
he was preached among the nations;
he was believed in throughout the world
he was taken up to heaven (1 Tim 3.16)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ;
You have given us new life;
You have made us your holy people.**

On the night Jesus was born, the world opened its heart to receive him:
On the night before he died to rise to life again Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends and made it an everyday sign by which all who believe in him may remember him and receive him into their lives.

**Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the bread of life.**

Let us then come with faith to receive him again

*Bread and wine is shared according to local custom, with the words:
'Love and life from Jesus our Lord'*

Prayer

Father, our God, we praise you and give you thanks.
You have come to us in Jesus, your Son and through him you have made us one with you. By your Spirit strengthen us in grace and faith, to live and work to see earth and heaven combined in the coming of your Kingdom of Love, everyday and in your final day.

A Carol 107 In the bleak mid winter

Blessing

Light and Life, joy and peace be ours in union with Christ Jesus
God for us, God with us, God in us.