

# Welcome and call to worship

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. **And we beheld his glory.** 

The Lord of Glory be with you. **And also with you.** 

Hymn: I know not why God's wondrous grace...

### **Confession and Absolution**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

We keep silence to recall our need for God's forgiveness.

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:

forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

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Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

# **Readings and Sermon**

Reading: John 1:43-51

Sermon - John Rees

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

## **The Intercessions** led by Roger Long

Prayers of Intercession are followed by the Lord's Prayer.

### The Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn: 565, Ye servants of God

#### Verses from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways.

Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,' Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

How deep are your counsels to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, and at the end, I am still in your presence.

## The Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in us the image of his glory and gladden our hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing ...

Hymn: Within our darkest night - Taizé