

**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.**

Blessing

As you watch and wait to welcome the Christ-child into your homes and hearts this Christmas, may you listen to the God who dances at creation and whispers all around you of your eternal life, that you too may rejoice in the wonder of creation, the gift of life and all the blessings your relationships bring you.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and it Holy Spirit, be with you, and with all those you love, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn You shall go out with joy (Sing twice) (571)

Welcome

Lighting the Advent candle with prayers

The first, second and third candles are relit.

Today we remember Mary, Jesus' mother, who said "Yes" to God's gracious invitation and did not count the cost.

The fourth candle is lit and then we pray:

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

Hymn: It came upon the midnight clear

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

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world comes to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
Draw us to himself and cleanse us from our sins,
That we may behold the glory of his Son,
The Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

Anthem - The Choir

Bible Readings

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Psalm 113

Sermon

Offertory Hymn The angel Gabriel from heaven came (471)

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer