

ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY –Christmas 2020

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

Gathering to worship God

We say together the words printed in bold.

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our
father
All Amen.

The Lord be with
you
**All and also with
you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.
All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Praise God who loves us.
All Praise God who cares.

We sing together - *Away in a Manger*
(Please mute yourself!)

Opening Prayers

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up
our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,
At this time when life is so different and so
difficult for so many of us help us, this year
more than ever before, to keep sight of the
heart of Christmas and what it really means.
To celebrate the birth of the Christ Child,
To worship Him as joyfully and reverently as
the shepherds and wise men long ago, and
To welcome and follow him as faithfully as
those who left everything to be his disciples.
Speak to us now through all that we do and
share, all that we sing and hear,
so that our lives may be touched by the wonder
of his presence
and that your word of life may be born in our
hearts again today.
To the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Confession

Let us remember that we often forget to love you God and love other people as we should
and we say sorry. Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**All Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead but now have life
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The president declares God's forgiveness

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

Blessed is the Lord,
All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
All and in our song will we praise our God.

Hearing and responding to the Word of God

Collect

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

New Testament Reading – Titus 3. 4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel – Luke 2. 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

Let us declare our faith in God

All 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.

Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, let us pray to the living God.

Lord God, thank you for our Church and its people, for our deacons, priests and bishops, and all who pray. Bless us all and strengthen us for your service so we can touch the world with your love.

Lord God, in a world of suffering we pray for all for whom this Christmas may not be a time for rejoicing. Help us to support all those in any kind of need, teach us your ways, your love and your truth, and let your kingdom grow and flourish through our love for one another.

Lord God, we thank you for our families, our neighbours and our friends, for the happiness of human loving and sharing, even though we may be unable to meet together in person this year. We pray for your blessing on all those we love, whether present with us today, alone in their own homes or far away.

Lord God, we pray for physical and mental health and strength, and for an end to the terrible suffering which is affecting the whole world. We pray for your help and healing wherever people ache with pain and sorrow, loneliness or fear. We give thanks for the sacrificial love which is being shown by so many people all over the world and we pray that all those in any kind of need will find support and comfort. Bless them in their need and surround them with love.

Lord God, we thank you for lives well lived, and all who have guided us to you. We pray particularly for those who have died during this past year and for all who grieve and for whom Christmas sharpens the loss of loved ones.

Lord God, we thank you for Christmas blessings and all the opportunities we still have to show our love for one another. May our love, rooted in yours, continue throughout the year ahead and give us hope of better times to come.

Lord of the Church, hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

We sing together - O little town of Bethlehem (*please mute yourself*)

Going out to serve God

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.

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be ours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us and all those we love this day and always. Amen.

We say the Grace together

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen