

*St Mary's*



*Midnight Mass*  
*24<sup>th</sup> December 2022*



*North Melbourne*

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## **CHRISTMAS TO EPIPHANY**

### **Welcome to St Mary's North Melbourne for this celebration of the birth of Our Lord.**

Christmas is the most joyous time of the Christian year, as we celebrate God coming to live amongst us in the form of Jesus Christ.

The date that Jesus was born is not known. However, St Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus was born while Quirinius was Governor of Syria.

Christmas came to be celebrated by the Church on 25 December, the same day the pagan Romans celebrated the Winter Solstice, which symbolised the re-birth of the Sun. Since the fourth century, the Church has kept 25 December as the day to celebrate the birth of the Son of Righteousness – Jesus Christ.

Prior to the adoption of 25 December as the celebration of Christmas, Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus on 6 January – the day on which Epiphany is now observed. The word Epiphany means 'revelation' – for Christians in the Western Tradition, this is the day on which the Wise Men came to visit the infant Jesus. For many Christians in the Orthodox traditions, Christmas is celebrated on 7 January – the day after Epiphany.

The services of Christmas and Epiphany are enjoyed for the cheerful singing of well-loved Christmas hymns, known as carols.

We hope that, through inspirational worship and beautiful music, you may be brought closer to God, and that you may have a happy and joyous Christmas with your hearts full of love and peace.

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## CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT SUNG EUCHARIST

*Please join us in singing the hymns and saying those parts of the service printed in **bold** type.*

*Please also join us in singing the musical sections of the Eucharistic rite: those parts where the musical notation is included in this Order of Service.*

*'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving', and in our singing together through this service we hope you may be brought closer to the real presence of God.*

*Please note that incense is used during the Midnight Eucharist as a symbol of prayer and blessing.*

### SETTING

*The setting for the Proper is the Franz Shubert "German Mass" arr. By Richard Proulx with "Christmas Gloria".*

### **Celebrant and Preacher**

Rev'd Canon Jan Joustra

Preacher Rev'd Prof Mark Lindsay (Associate Priest)

Deacon Rev'd Prof Dorothy Lee (Associate Priest)

### **Organist**

Beverley Phillips, Director of Music

### **Choristers**

Members of St Mary's Choir

***Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off.***

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## INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of the birth of Jesus calls us to question and reassess our values. We pray for the courage to do so. May our Christmas be filled with love: given and received unconditionally. May our lives reflect the unconditional love of our God, who has entered our lives with the birth of Jesus.

Christmas is not simply a time for rejoicing because of the birth of Jesus. It is a time for recalling that God has been made known to us in Jesus; and it is a time for recognising that we can find the lasting happiness we seek by trying to live and love as Jesus did.

*A bell rings as a signal for all to stand as the service begins*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**TIS 304**

**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:**

### *Refrain*

*O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him  
O come let us adore him  
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created:  
O come ....**

*Words: JF Wade (1711-1786)  
arranged by Sir David Willcocks CBE MC (1919-2015)*

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## THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who is alive and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come ....***

**Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
*O come ....***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
*O come ...***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come...***

*Words: JF Wade (1711-1786)  
arranged by Sir David Willcocks CBE MC (1919-2015)*

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## THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the  
thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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

*Silence is kept*

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son, our Saviour, was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

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We have sinned:  
**Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:  
**Forgive and heal us.**

The Wise Men followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:  
**Forgive and heal us.**

### THE ABSOLUTION

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Response:*

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5, then descending through B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and ending on B3. A slur covers the first four notes (G4-A4-B4-C5). The lyrics 'Glo' and 'ri - a' are placed below the first and last notes of the slur, respectively. The second staff continues the melody from D4, moving to E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5, then descending through B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and ending on B3. A slur covers the first four notes (D4-E4-F4-G4). The lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o o.' are placed below the notes. A repeat sign is placed after the fourth measure of the second staff.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

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## Response

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

## Response

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Response

### THE COLLECT

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night to shine  
with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of 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.

### THE FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;



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they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.2-7*

For the word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

To - day is born a Sa - viour Christ the Lord

**Response:**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless the Lord's name. *Response*

Proclaim God's mercy day by day. Tell the Lord's glory among the nations, and wonders among the peoples. *Response*

Let heaven and earth rejoice and be glad, the sea and its creatures thunder praise, the land and its fruit show forth their joy. *Response*

Let trees and forests shout for joy at the presence of God, for the Lord is come, at the presence of God who rules the earth. *Response*

*tr. from The Psalms, A New Translation (1989)*  
*Psalm verses by permission A. P. Watt, London*  
*Response text © 1991, Christopher Willcock S. J.*  
*Music © 1975, 1991, Christopher Willcock S. J.*

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THE SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Titus 2.11-14*

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**TIS 316**

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet, in your dark streets shining  
the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all on earth.**

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**3. How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel.**

Phillips Brooks 1835–93 *alt.*  
Adaptation and arrangement from the *English Hymnal* by permission Oxford University Press  
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*Please turn to face the Gospel as it is proclaimed.*

GOSPEL READING

*Choir* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
*All* **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*Choir* Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
*All* **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

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A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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!’

*Luke 2.1-14*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON—FATHER MARK

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## THE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,

the only Son from before time began;

human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;**

**human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,

as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human**

**he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,

but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,**

**but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being

so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;**

**we have seen his glory,**

**the glory of the only Son from the Father,**

**full of grace and truth.**

*from the Athanasian Creed*

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Wonderful Counsellor, give your wisdom to the leaders of the nations. We pray for those who seek to bring peace and justice to your people. We pray that you will turn the hearts of all those who make for war.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders. We pray for our political leaders and we pray for wise government.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever. We pray for all who suffer in this world because of war, civil strife, persecution and poverty. We pray for all agencies of healing, praying especially for the work of the United Nations and all its agencies.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace. We particularly pray for the peoples of the Holy Land, Palestinians and Israelis, Christians, Jews and Muslims that they may be a sign of reconciliation to the world and live together in your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, bring us all to your heavenly city, to the joyful gathering of thousands of angels, to the assembly of your first born, to the spirits of good people made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the sprinkled blood that promises peace.

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Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers:  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

*A collection is taken as we sing this hymn together. Your support is truly appreciated.*

**HYMN: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT**

**1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around,**

**2. “Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind.  
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.**

**3. “To you, in David’s town, this day  
Is born of David’s line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign.**

**5. “The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.”**



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**6. Thus spake the seraph and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God on high,  
Who thus addressed their song.**

**7. “All glory be to God on high,  
And to the Earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from Heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!”**

*arr. David Willcocks*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessèd be God for ever.**

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessèd be God for ever.**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

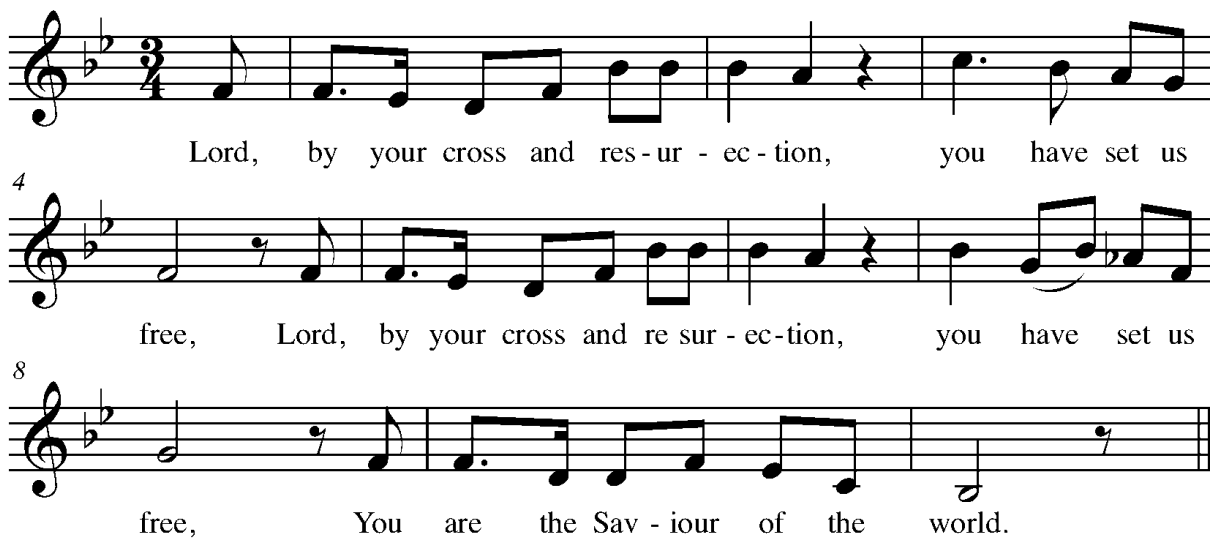
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Merciful Father, we thank you  
 for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,  
 and we pray that we who eat and drink them  
 in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
 in obedience to our Saviour Christ  
 in remembrance of his death and passion  
 may be partakers of his body and his blood.

On the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
 when he had given you thanks he broke it,  
 gave it to his disciples, and said:  
 Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
 do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks he gave it to his disciples and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you  
and for many for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Lord, by your cross and res - ur - ec - tion, you have set us  
4 free, Lord, by your cross and re sur - ec - tion, you have set us  
8 free, You are the Sav - iour of the world.

Father, with this bread and this cup,  
we do as our Saviour has commanded;  
we celebrate the redemption he was won for us;  
we proclaim his perfect sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
and we look for his coming  
to fulfil all things according to your will.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
with whom and in whom,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,

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we worship you, Father almighty,  
now and forever.



A - men, A - men, A - men. A - men, A - men.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many, are one body:  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

## AGNUS DEI



Je - sus, Lamb of God have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,



give us your peace, give us your peace.

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*God invites everyone to gather around his table. All are welcome to come forward and receive this Holy Sacrament, or a blessing.*

## ANTHEM

“Nova radist’ stala” Joy on earth now appearing.

*Traditional Ukrainian Carol  
Trans & Arr. Charles H. Giffen*

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“Good Christians all, rejoice”

*Old German Carol.  
Arr. Alan Bullard. (b. 1947)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

**HARK THE HERALD**

**TIS 303**

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem’.**

*Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb:**

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**veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing ...*

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings:  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing ...*

*Charles Wesley 1707–88 and others  
Reproduced with permission*

**BLESSING**

Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the Divine Nature; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

**THE DISMISSAL**

We go into the world to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

**Amen! We go in the name of Christ!**

**POSTLUDE**

“Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich” BWV 609 Praise God at once, you  
Christians

“In Dulci Jubilo.” Fantasia BWV 729

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*