



*Christmas Day  
Choral Eucharist*



*25<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

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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 DAY CHORAL 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.*

### **Celebrant and Preacher**

Rev’d Canon Jan Joustra

### **Organist**

Beverley Phillips, Director of Music

### **Choristers**

Members of St Mary’s Choir

**Please ensure 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*

## HYMN

TIS 313

Chords for the hymn 'Tis 313':

Staff 1: F, C, F, C

Staff 2: F, C, F, Dm, Gm, C, F

Staff 3: C, F, Dm, Gm, C7, F

Staff 4: Dm, A7, Dm, C, F, C7, F

- 
- 1. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
listen well to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today,  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now!  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today.**
  
  - 2. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this;  
he has opened heaven's door  
and you are blest for evermore;  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this.**
  
  - 3. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall;  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save.**

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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.**

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Your Son, our Saviour, was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
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 us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Response:***



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## THE COLLECT

God Most High,  
whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us,  
that we might live in your presence:  
grant us a spirit of wisdom  
to know how rich is the glory you have given us,  
and how great is the hope to which we are called  
in the Word made flesh;  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and 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; 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.

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

*Response:*



O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth,  
O sing to the Lord, bless God's name.

***Response***

Proclaim God's help day by day,  
Tell among the nations God's Glory  
and God's wonders among all the peoples.

***Response***

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad  
Let the sea and all within it thunder praise  
Let the earth and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord  
for God comes to rule the earth.

***Response.***

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## THE SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to Titus.

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.  
For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Tis 302

*Gtr. Capo 3*   Gm(Em)   D7(B7)   Gm(Em)   Cm(Am) D7(B7) /

Gm(Em)   D7(B7)   Gm(Em)   Eb(C)   F(D)   Gm(Em) /

Bb(G)   Gm(Em)   Cm(Am)   F(D) /

Cm(Am)   D7(B7) /   Eb(C)   Cm(Am) Dm(Bm)   Gm(Em)

high - ly fa-voured la - dy,   Glo - - - ri - a! \_\_\_\_\_

most

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1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*
  2. ‘for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.’ *Gloria!*
  3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said,  
‘my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name’:  
‘most highly favoured lady’. *Gloria!*
  4. of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

*Please remain standing and turn to face the Gospel as it is proclaimed.*

#### GOSPEL READING

<i>Choir</i>	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.!
<i>All</i>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!</b>
<i>Cantor</i>	Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.</b>

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 John.

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

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

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## THE SERMON

### 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 world 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.**

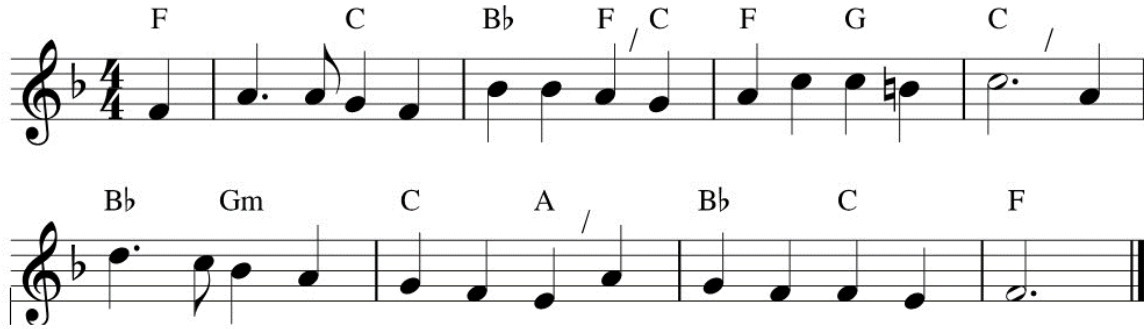
### THE PEACE

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.





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  
you and all humankind.
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:
4. 'the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels, praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

- 
- 6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin and never cease.'**

#### 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.**

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## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**Sursum Corda**

*Celebrant*      *People*

The Lord be with you.      And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*      *People*

Lift up your hearts.      We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*      *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise be given to you at all times and in all places, Lord, holy Father, true and living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is your eternal Word through whom you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

In your great love you gave him to be made man for us and to share our common life.

In obedience to your will your Son our Saviour offered himself as a perfect sacrifice, and died upon the cross for our redemption. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin and reconciled us to yourself, our God and Father.

He is our great high priest whom you raised from death and exalted to your right hand on high where he ever lives to intercede for us. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit and made us a royal priesthood called to serve you for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for every praising you and singing:

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 God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his  
disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

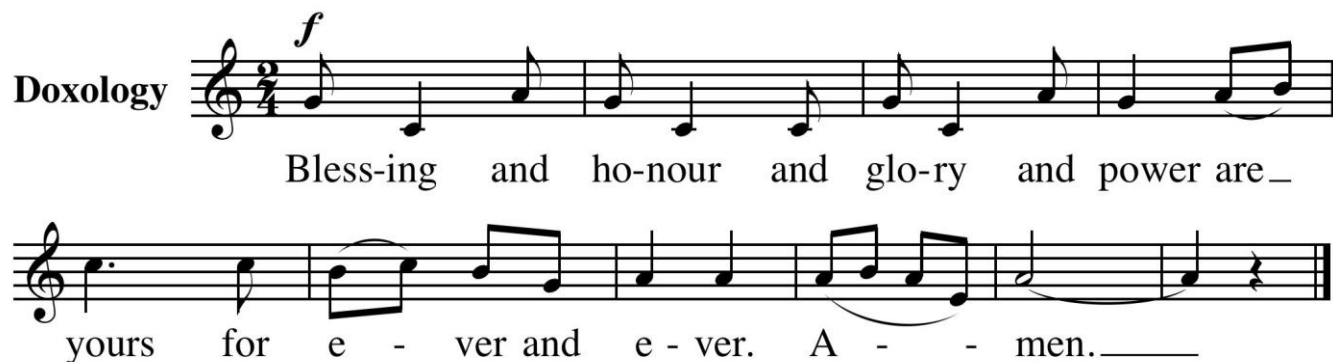
After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of  
me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

1. Choir; 2. ALL



Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.  
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,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

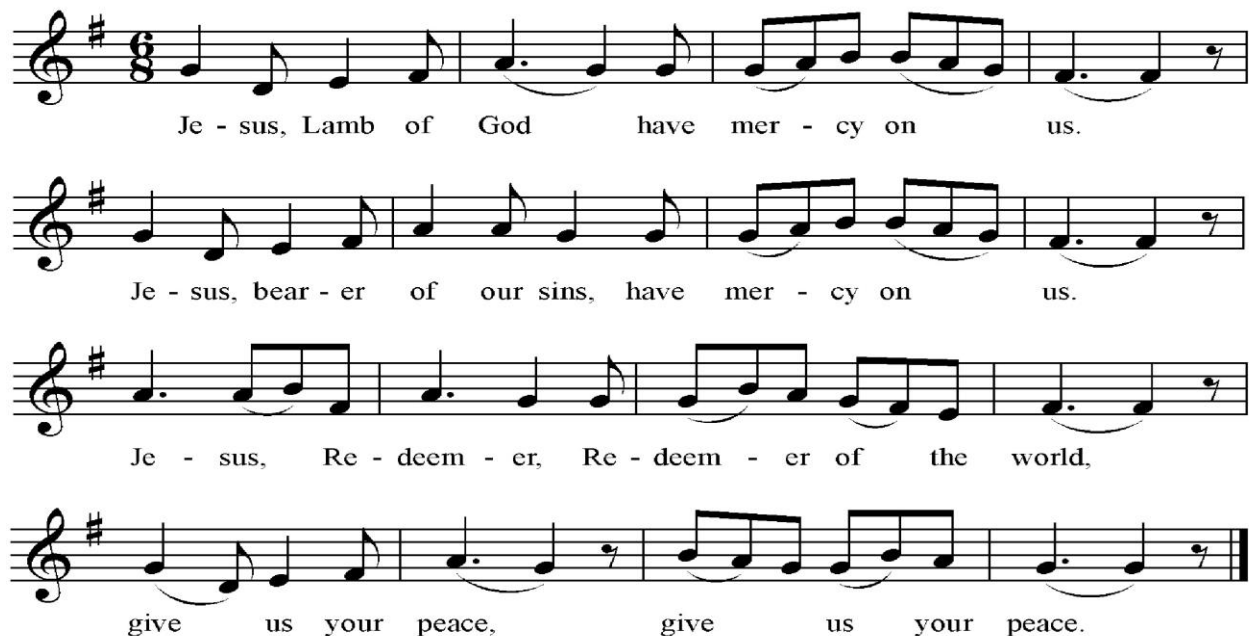
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.  
Though we are many, we are one body:  
**because we all share in 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.

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## 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

“The Day that Christ was born on”

*William G James; John Wheeler.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**Amen.**

**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.**

## HYMN

TIS 303

F C7 / F Bb C F /

F Dm G7 / C G7 C /

F Bb C / F Bb C /

Bb D7 Gm / C F C F /

*Refrain* Bb D7 Gm / C F C F

*Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing glo - ry — to the new-born king.*

**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.*

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

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

*Hark! the herald angels sing ...*

**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 ...*

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## 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

### Acknowledgements:

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