



December 25/26, 2021

Christmas

SAYING 'YES' TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAISE THE LORD! God is here.

God is with us.

PRAISE THE LORD! God is calling us. God is welcoming us.

PRAISE THE LORD! God is full of compassion. God is full of love.

PRAISE THE LORD!

PRAYER

God of new birth, God of Christmas, God of the gift of love,
today we celebrate your breaking into the world in the life of Jesus.

We celebrate you surprising a weary world with peace and joy.

Today, God, we know your presence in the fragile body of a baby,
the equally fragile body of a man, and in our fragile bodies and communities. We
welcome you again in our midst.

Amen.

SONG

Away in a Manger

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/658016253/fbe9f5ffd3>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we are celebrating again the Christmas story.

Some of us are doing so with family and friends,
some in community and some alone.

But all of us are blessed with your presence this Christmas as we have been in
every Christmas, and every day of our lives.


Forgive us if we are just going through the motions.

Forgive us if we have not been stunned and surprised by your presence with us.

Forgive us if we have treated the Christmas story as something normal and
unremarkable.

Forgive us if we do not live in joyful and humble gratitude and delight.

May we, in this quite time of Christmas Day,



let the joy of your presence sweep into our bones.
Amen.

ASSURANCE

It makes no difference if we are ready.
It makes no difference if we understand or not.
It makes no difference, if we are waiting in anticipation or not – the new life of God has dawned on us.
The new life of God is growing in us.
We are forgiven!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(take this time to pray for each other, the community and world)

SONG

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/655214597/a3cf12e654>

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/658017199/7a94c17a68>

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God, the Psalmist sings out praise after praise.
The whole earth sings out praise continually and joyfully.
We join that chorus today with our lives, with our time,
with our resources and with our thanks for your generous love. Amen.

READINGS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

REFLECTION

Saying 'Yes' to God

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/658002108/a6828597d1>

SILENCE

Now let silence gently enfold us...

May the silence we now share quieten us, touch our need, refresh our courage,
and enlarge our wonder.

SONG


While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/658017199/7a94c17a68>

COMMUNION

Celebrant:

There is one Almighty God,
And we have a mediator between heaven and earth,



Jesus, the Christ
Who gave himself as a ransom for many.

Whoever is on Christ's side,
join with me,
In this mystery

All:
Create in me a clean heart, O' God,
that it may become your chosen vessel
And the resting place of your Holy Spirit.

Celebrant:
Everlasting God,
Light of lights
come and awaken our hearts
That we may live in the power of Your Grace.

Celebrant:
Deep peace be in your thinking
Deep peace be in your hearts
Deep peace between you and God's good earth,
Deep peace be between you and your neighbour
Friends, the deep peace of Jesus the Christ be with you.

All:
and also with you

THE PRESENTATION OF ELEMENTS:


Gifts of bread and wine brought forward

Celebrant:
The Lord is with us
and His spirit is here

We praise you, creator of all.
Through your goodness, we have this bread and wine, which earth has given
and hands have made,
they will be for us our spiritual food and drink.

All:
Blessed be God forever.

Celebrant:
As we bring this bread to you (***lift up the bread***) Lord of all,
we offer up to you our hearts,
our energies our labour,
our leisure our relationships.



Our minds our thoughts,
time and talents,
all that we create,
all that we possess,
Our souls,
our coming our going,
Our strength,
our days and nights,
our hopes and fears,
the day of our birth
and the moment of our death,
Oh bread and sustainer of life.

We pour out this wine (***pour wine***)
and offer to you the woes of life poured out.
Disappointment, disease, hurt, or handicap
As grapes are crushed to make this wine,
so we offer to you all who are crushed by hunger,
homelessness, violence or abuse.
Take all this and transform it into the deep rich wine of everlasting life.

THE THANKSGIVING:

Celebrant:

Lift up your hearts


All:

We lift them to the Lord

Celebrant:

God we thank you for all you have done.
Creator of the Universe,
you brought forth the earth:
Breathe wisdom into us, your creatures,
till we reflect your three-fold friendship.
In our pain and sorrow we cry out to you.
Perfect sacrifice for our sins.
By the power of your spirit may these gifts of bread and wine be for us
Christ's body and blood,
who on the night He was betrayed took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and
gave it to His disciples saying
"Take eat, this is my body which is broken for you.
After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks and said to them
"Drink, all of you,
this is my blood which is shed for you and the many
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me"

Risen Christ we welcome you.
Father send forth your Holy Spirit among your children



Feed us with heavenly bread
May we become intoxicated with your holiness.

PARTAKING:

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Celebrant:

Heaven is intertwined with earth.

We have taken divine life into us and said 'Yes' to God

It is love that binds everything together in perfect harmony

Therefore, let the peace of Christ live in your hearts, and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

In the name of Christ, God with us. Amen.

All:

In the name of the Father

And of the Son

And of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

SONG

The First Noel

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/658017718/1867793ca0>