

**ORDER OF SERVICE  
CHRISTMAS 2, JANUARY 3 2021  
with HOLY COMMUNION**



*(You will need some bread and Juice (or water) for Holy Communion )*

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

As we light the Christ candle in the church,  
you are invited to light a candle in your home.

*The Light shone in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it ..... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world”.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

From the east and the west  
flowing towards all people on earth,  
came the gentle light of hope,  
born in the Christchild



We have seen the wonder of the gift heralded by angels.  
The life of God came in vulnerability among us  
in a stable.



The Saviour of the world is born  
spreading grace upon grace across a struggling world,  
and gladdening the hearts of young and old



like a budding flower of joy after the fires.  
Come and reflect upon the wonder of the gift  
as a new year begins.

\*adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Liturgies for High Days* p. 47

## **CAROL: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye 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 the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased in human flesh to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King!*

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings:  
Mild He lay His glory by  
Born that man no more need die,  
Born to raise us from the earth  
Born to give us second birth  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!*

Charles Wesley and others

## **PRAYERS**

Loving God, creator of all that is, and lover of all that you have created; we gather as a new people today in praise and wonder at the gift of your Son with us.

Eternal God, Lord of time, we also gather at the beginning of this new year with thanksgiving that we have come through the year which has passed with all its challenges.

Help us today to walk quietly away from the old year giving thanks for its joys and achievements despite everything and for the times of growth and love  
Thank you for strength and wisdom given amid suffering and uncertainties, disappointments and separations from loved ones.  
Thank you for hope arising out of anxiety and fear.

We are sorry for our mistakes, for the wrong we could have avoided and any hurt we have caused. Lord grant us your mercy and forgiveness, even as we forgive one another. ....

The pandemic is still around us and struggles still abound early in this new year - so help us to dare to believe that this is a new day Help us with your grace to have courage: In your presence may we see the promise of new life as we walk towards the opportunities and demands of this new year.

May this time of worship around your table empower us to live as your people today and in the year to come and always. This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.\*  
Amen.

Friends in Christ we can make a new beginning.

*IN Christ we are a new creation.... everything old has passed away; see everything has become new.* (2Corinthians 5:17) Amen.

adapted from Terry C Falla, *Be our Freedom Lord*. Open Book Publishers, p.279

## **GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-18**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



## REFLECTION

### SONG: What a beautiful name

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful name it is*

*What a beautiful name it is The name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a beautiful name it is*

*Nothing compares to this*

*What a beautiful name it is The name of Jesus*

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
My sin was great, Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

*What a wonderful name it is....*

How sweet is Your name Lord  
How good You are  
We love to sing in Your name Lord  
We love to sing it through Your...

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival  
You have no equal  
Now and forever, God You reign  
Yours is the kingdom  
Yours is the glory  
Yours is the name above all names

*What a powerful name it is ....*  
What a powerful name it is  
The name of Jesus  
What a powerful name it is  
The name of Jesus

Songwriters: Ben Fielding / Brooke Ligertwood  
Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – INTERCESSIONS**

In peace with God and with one another, let us offer to God our hearts desires and our concerns for our world and ourselves - Let us pray:

To you, O giver of joy, we praise you that in the fullness of time you came to be with us to give us hope, peace and the joy of eternal life. We thank you that in Mary you found one who willingly gave over control of her life, trusting in you, for the sake of your love of us. We rejoice that we have received grace upon grace in the giving of your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

Because you have made us for joy, Lord, we pray for our world in which the news is so joyless right now.

As gatherings for Christmas and New Year have been limited and the rules about what we can and cannot do keeps changing, many have felt stressed and uncertain. As trouble and challenge, pandemic and natural disaster, oppressive governments and power struggles, uncertainty and grief and sorrow pervades our world, the joy of life has often eluded us this past year and sometimes faded from our sight. We long for your protection and guidance.

Help us to entrust our world's needs, and our own, to your care and safekeeping, trusting in your promise to heal and restore and lead us into the future you have for us. Empower us in all circumstances to joyfully witness to our world the news of your presence in our midst and the hope it brings.

We pray for all your children in need. To those who are fearful and oppressed, give freedom; to those who are hungry and homeless, give help; to those who are lonely or locked down or grieving, give your comfort and peace; and to those who are sick, give healing and hope. Thank you for all your saints who rest in peace with you.

With thanksgiving in our hearts we pray the prayer our Lord has taught us:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

adapted from [Christmas 1A, New Years Day | Life in Liturgy \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.lifeinliturgy.com/2015/12/25/christmas-1a-new-years-day/)

## **OFFERING**

By the goodness of God, we are called into the family of the church. By God's grace, we rejoice to share in the church's life of mission and ministry.

Let us hold our tithes and gifts to God' as a token of the offering of our very lives. O God, through the offering of these gifts, may we become a more open people—open to hearing your word and wisdom, open-hearted in healing a broken world, open-handed in kindness and caring for others. With thanks for all good gifts, we present these gifts together with the whole of ourselves. Amen.\*\*

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **THE PEACE & INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

This is the table of the Lord  
And he calls us to this sacred feast.  
Come there is a place for you.  
Come with thankful hearts

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

For this lovely planet earth,  
For its beauty and fertility and many creatures and wonder  
For the human family with its many cultures and faces  
and for your utter faithfulness to us  
O God our Creator we give thanks.

For the actions and words of the prophets and saints,  
For Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem to Mary  
the Word made flesh, your Son who lives among us  
showing us your love and grace  
and making us your children,  
God our heavenly Father, we give thanks.

and we remember how  
on the night before Jesus died  
He turned to his friends while they were eating  
taking a piece of bread, he blessed it  
broke it and gave it to them with the words,  
“This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.”

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying,  
“This cup is God’s new covenant, sealed with my blood.  
Drink from it, all of you, to remember me.”

So now, following Jesus’ example and command,  
we take this bread and this wine, remembering how He suffered and died for us and  
rose up dispelling all darkness  
and giving us the gift of light and life and joy.

For your renewing presence, creating the church and inspiring actions of  
compassion and love  
God the Holy Spirit, we give thanks.

With angels and the whole creation, we worship you: praising you and saying in our  
hearts:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Holy Spirit bless this bread and this cup.  
Transform these ordinary things so that for us  
they may be Christ’s body and blood  
and open our hearts and minds  
as we enter this new year  
so we may be your people listening and hearing and  
overflowing with your love and joy  
to your praise and glory forever. Amen

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP**

*(the bread is broken)*

The bread of joy!  
The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
Let us we eat, with thanksgiving

*(People eat the bread in their homes)*

*(the cup is raised)*

The cup of promise!  
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
Let us drink from the cup with thanksgiving

*(People eat the bread in their homes)*

## **FINAL PRAYER & BLESSING**

Gracious God

Thank you for feeding us today with your Word and this sacrament.

As a new year stretches out before us

may we be strengthened to walk with confidence

knowing that you are with us in Jesus the Word made flesh

through all the turnings of the seasons whatever they bring. Amen.

Go with your hearts and minds open to Christ, open to God the Father and open to the Holy Spirit

The blessing of God be with you now, in the year ahead and remain with us always. Amen.

## **SONG: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE**

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine Fill this land with the Father's glory*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze Set our hearts on fire*

*Flow, river, flow Flood the nations with grace and mercy*

*Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence

From the shadows into your radiance

By the blood I may enter your brightness

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness

Shine on me, shine on me

### *REFRAIN*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness

So our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me

### REFRAIN

Songwriters: Kendrick Graham A  
Shine Jesus Shine lyrics © Make Way Music