



Sharing the Feast of Life on Christmas morning

Introductory music, followed by welcome

Opening hymn: Hark, the herald-angels sing (199)

Gathering

A child is born:
a child to save us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born:
a child to challenge us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born:
a child for the world.

We share the news with great joy.

'Christmas is coming'

Today, with the waiting of Advent over, we light all five candles and sing all five verses.

Chorus:

**'Christmas is coming'
the Church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.**

- 1 The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.**
- 2 The second's for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.**
- 3 The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus,
both this and every day.'**
- 4 The fourth is for the Virgin,
who mothered God's own son
and sang how God's justice
was meant for everyone.**
- 5 At last we light the candle
kept new for Christmas Day.
This shines bright for Jesus,
new-born, and here to stay.**

Last chorus:

**Christ is among us.
The candles in the ring
remind us that our Saviour
will light up everything.**

Prayer of Reconciliation

Creator of light and darkness,
we so often chase shadows
and fail to walk in the light.

Forgive us, O God.

Time of stillness

Absolution

This Christmas Day, through Jesus,
know that your sins are forgiven.
You are set free to be forgiving,
so lift your faces towards the light,
and let us walk together in hope and in faith.
Amen.

Prayer for the Day

**God, our beloved,
born of a woman's body,
you came that we might look upon you,
and touch you with our own hands.
May we so cherish one another in our bodies
that we may also be touched by you;
through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Gradual hymn: Away in a manger (51)

The Gospel

Before the Gospel reading the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

The Gospel reading can be found on page *nn* of the New Testament section of the church Bibles; it is from ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon or other reflection

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

The Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*We share the Peace with one another, and then gather
around the altar.*

The Preparation of the Gifts

*The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for
ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:*

Blessed be God for ever.

Thanksgiving Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers our thanks and praise, concluding ...

... for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heaven and earth adored,
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy, holy Lord.**

The minister says the words of institution, finishing with:
The bread God gives is the one who comes from heaven and gives life to the world.

**Christ the light shines for all:
he has become one with us
that we may become one with you.**

The prayer of thanksgiving continues, finishing with:
... all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

O God in heaven,
**Mother and Father of us all,
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.
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.**

Breaking the Bread

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Invitation

The minister invites all to receive Communion.

The Communion

*Each person receives, responding **Amen** to the words of the minister:*

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**
The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

We remain standing around the altar until everyone has received communion, and then return to our seats.

Prayer after Communion

**God our Creator,
today you have made known to us again
the power and coming of Jesus the Christ;
may our Christmas celebration
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
Amen.**

Notices

Final hymn: See him lying on a bed of straw (440)

Closing responses

Light of God:

Lead us.

Power of God:

Hold us.

Joy of God:

Heal us.

Laughter of God:

Bless us.

Love of God:

Caress us.

Blessing

May the wonder of the shepherds,
the generosity of the wise men
and the compassion and commitment of Mary
be in us and flow from us
this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.