



Sharing the Feast of Life in the Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany

Colours

president: black

worship leader: blue

cantor: green

readers and others: violet

*Please have ready:
a candle, a Bible, bread
and wine/juice.*

We light a candle.

*Light has come into the world:
**A light no darkness can
overcome.***

*The light shines that we might
live by the truth:
**A light no darkness can
overcome.***

*Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
A light no darkness can overcome.*

***The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:** Within our darkest night
in God I trust, you kindle the fire
in God I trust. that never dies away.*

Reconciliation

*We recognize the darkness and pain of our world,
and our part in that pain:*

We seek to know God's forgiveness and healing:

We have wounded your love:

O God, forgive and heal us.



We stumble in the darkness:
Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home:
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.*

May our loving God
scatter the darkness from our hearts and lives,
fill us with love, hope and joy,
and set us on fire to be the light of the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Jesus, 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. Amen.**

Kids' Church departs.

Reading(s) and reflection
*Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.*

After the reading(s):

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

The reflection or sermon follows.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,
who creates and gives life to the world,
whose generous love is beyond our imagining,
yet closer than our breathing.

We believe in Jesus,
the living Word of God,
inviting us to new beginnings,
calling us to follow him at any cost.

We believe in the Spirit,
breathing into us renewing power,
enabling our longing for justice,
opening to us the depths of God's Wisdom.

We believe in the company of God's people,
called to follow the Way of Christ,
heirs to the promises of God,
travelling on in hope and peace. Amen.

Prayers

*Please write prayer requests into the comments
(remembering that this is a public space).*

The Peace

***Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.***

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

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:

A light no darkness can overcome.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
And also with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Everything is yours, Lord,
everything comes from you:
all we have we offer to you.
Accept our love, Lord, we pray;
receive our gifts, Lord, today.*

Eternal Wisdom,
we praise you and give you thanks,
because you emptied yourself of power
and became foolishness for our sake:
for *[on this night/day]* you were delivered
as one of us, a baby needy and naked,
wrapped in a woman's blood;
born into poverty and exile,
to proclaim the good news to the poor,
and to let the broken victims go free.

Therefore, with the woman who gave you birth,
With all who befriended you and followed you,
and with all your lovers throughout the ages,
we praise you, singing:

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

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,

'This is my body, broken for you.'

And later he took the cup of wine and said,

'This wine is God's new covenant,
sealed by my death.

Take this – all of you – to remember me.'

Spirit of God, come afresh on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine

that they may make us one body in Christ.

Open our eyes

that we may recognise you walking with us;

Open our ears and our minds

that we may hear your word;

Open our hearts

that your love may flow through us

and bring the blessing of new life to all we meet;

For you are the God who makes all things new,
and surprises us into understanding.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace.

Breaking the Bread

This bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
Gathered in different places,
we are connected in one Spirit:

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

The Communion

Please share some bread and juice/wine at home.

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in him and you will not thirst.*

Prayer after Communion

**O God our Creator,
in you alone are the riches of life.
We come from the East
and we come from the West:
believing we follow, on our different roads,**

the same star to the same place.
May we share what we know of its light,
so that we learn from each other
the way to the stable,
to worship you our only wealth,
and serve the world with Gospel gold. Amen.

News and Notices

Blessing

Christ, our light, shine upon us and guide us,
Christ, our shield, protect and cover us,
in light defeating darkness,
in wisdom conquering foolishness,
in trust overcoming fearfulness.

The light of Christ has come into the world:
A light no darkness can overcome.

*Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho:
Your will be done on earth, O Lord.*

Let us go and shine Christ's light in the world:
To the glory of God. Amen.



When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
Then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoners,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among siblings,
To make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman)