



A Liturgy of the Word Christmas Day

25 December 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!



Call to Worship

Lighting the Christ Candle

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord
Thanks be to God

Today is Christmas - Day the day on which we celebrate the gift to us of the birth of Jesus and recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ which we celebrate this Christmas Day.

Luke 2

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' (NRSV)



God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

Let us pray

Holy God you left the glory of heaven to take upon yourself our fragile humanity. You came to us in love and yet we denied you room and you were laid in a manger. We have lit candles of hope, peace, love and joy, may these virtues shine brightly in our lives as we welcome you into our hearts this Christmas. Amen.

Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the Lord:

Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God's Name, now and forever.

The Gloria

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| C: Udum' alube | A: KuNkulunkulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: Kweziphezulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: KuNkulunkulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: Kweziphezulu |
| C: Kube nokuthula | A: Emhlabeni |
| C: Kube nokuthula | A: Ebantwini bonke |
| C: Nkosi Nkulunkulu | A: Nkosi yasezulwini |
| C: Nkulunkulu Baba | A: Baba Somandla |
| C: Siyakubabaza | A: Siyakwazisa |
| C: Siyakuguqela | A: Siyakudumisa |
| C: Siyakubonga | A: Ngenxa yobukhosi |
| C: Yobukhosi | A: Bakh' obukhulu |
| C: Nkosi Jesu Kristu | A: Ndodan' ezelwe yodwa |
| C: Nkosi Nkulunkulu | A: Mvana kaNkulunkulu |
| C: Ndodan' kaNkulunkulu | A: kaNkulunkul' uYise |
| C: Wena osusa | A: Izone zomhlaba |
| C: Sihawukele | A: Sihawukele |
| C: Sihawukele | A: Sihawukele |
| C: Sihawukele | A: Sihawukele |
| C: Sihawukele | A: Sihawukele |
| C: Amen, A-a-a | A: A-a-a-a-amen |
| C: Amen, A-a-a | A: A-a-a-a-a-amen |
| C: Amen, A-a-a | A: A-a-a-a-amen |
| C: Amen, A-a-a | A: A-a-a-a-a-amen |



Collect for Purity

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:**



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

The Kyrie

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Morena, re utlwele bohloko
Morena, re utlwele bohloko

Kriste, o re utlwele bohloko
Kriste, o re utlwele bohloko

Morena, re utlwele bohloko
Morena, re utlwele bohloko

The Penitence

Let us confess our sins, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
In penitence we confess
That we have sinned against you
Through our own fault
In thought, word and deed
And in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
Forgive us all that is past
And grant that we may serve you
In newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

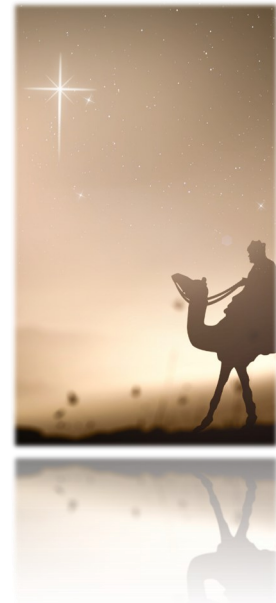
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

**O Christ, light of the world,
born into human pain and joy:
let our celebration of your birth
make us bold witnesses of your love;
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of God

Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12)





Carol

Sung by Nosisa Miti, Sam Hermanus & Ven Moses Thabethe

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia

Let your hearts rejoice in the Lord
Let your word proclaim his deeds
Let your voice sing out to the world
That our God has come to save

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 2 : 1 - 20

The Sermon

By Ven Moses Thabethe

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

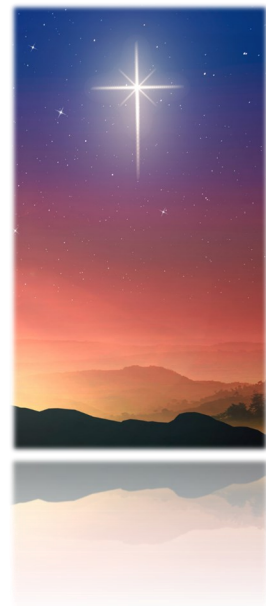
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life
to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.





This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Carol

Sung by Nosisa Miti, Sam Hermanus, Ven Moses Thabethe

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

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 may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*



Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the people of this world who are in need this day as we celebrate Christmas.

Child of Bethlehem, bless the church throughout the world: may the Holy Spirit may guide us, and grant that we may pursue truth, unity, peace and righteousness. We pray especially for the church at the moment, being tested by difficult questions and challenged by the threat of disunity. We pray for the work of the church here and abroad and for our own ministries in our Parish as we live our lives.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Child of Bethlehem, enable all those charged with the responsibility of government, both here in our country and all over the world, that they might rule in peace, justice and mercy, that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**



Child of Bethlehem, comfort those who will not enjoy Christmas this season, for whom life is a struggle for survival as a result of poverty, famine, disease, war, or the greed of others. We pray, too, for those striving to rebuild their lives after the devastation of natural disasters and of terrorism.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon all who are troubled, anxious or sick in mind, body or spirit and for those who love and care for them. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We remember now anyone known to us who is in special need of our prayers, and name them in a moment of silence (*pause*)

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died in the church community of St Michael's, and we give thanks for the witness borne by their lives as your faithful servants throughout the ages. Turn our darkness into light, for in your light shall we see light.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer for Offering

Generous God, you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts others will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, heavenly Father,
we give thanks that in your great mercy and compassion
you allowed your dear Son to become incarnate
and through him, redeemed us from sin and eternal death.
Enlighten our hearts by your Holy Spirit
that we may always be thankful for such grace
and be comforted in all trouble and temptation,
and at last, obtain eternal salvation;
We thank you for peace in our homes,
peace in our churches and peace in our hearts,
especially when it feels like the world all around us spins out of control
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

**1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**3 No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution

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E.F.T

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