



# A Liturgy of the Word with Spiritual Communion - Christmas Day

Date : 25 December 2020



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Allie Joseph



Rev. Matthew Wright



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;

*Refrain:*

*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!"

*Refrain:*

*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;

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Author (attributed to): John Francis Wade;  
Translator: Frederick Oakeley (1841; alt)

## 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)

*(Light the white Christ Candle now.)*

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*

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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: Izono 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

Ven Moses Thabethe



*Collect for Purity*

*Let us pray.*

**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.**




*The Kyrie*

**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**

Ven Moses Thabethe



*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*

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.

*sung by Nosisa Miti, Sam Hermanus & Ven Moses Thabethe  
John T. McFarland (1892)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

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*

John 1: 1-14

*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.**

*Carol*

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"



*(by Nosisa Miti, Sam Hermanus, Ven Moses Thabethe)*



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"

Charles Wesley (1739)



Lord God, we bring before you the needs of your people as we celebrate Christmas.

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon the church all over the world: that the Holy Spirit may guide us, and grant that we may pursue truth, unity, peace and righteousness. We pray especially for the church throughout the world, challenged and tested by difficult questions and the threat of disunity. May your church remain open to the discernment of your Spirit that we may be faithful witnesses of your indiscriminate love.

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

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon 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, so that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

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

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon 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 displacement.

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.

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 and light candles to symbolise the light of Christ, which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember our beloved parishioners, members of our families, those known to us:  
You turn our darkness into light for, in your light shall we see light.

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



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.**



**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**



*The Celebrant invites everyone at home to pray silently to prepare themselves to make an act of Spiritual Communion. After a few moments all pray together: (BRIEF SILENCE)*

**Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul.  
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people  
gathered around every altar of your Church,  
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**





*Taizé Chant*

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum  
Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum

*(Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord)*

*By Ven Moses Thabethe*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Gracious God, we give you thanks  
for the love we have received from you  
and from those who love you.  
in this worship service you have brought us near  
to an innumerable company of angels  
and to the spirits of the saints made perfect.  
As in this food of our earthly pilgrimage  
we have shared their fellowship,  
so may we come to share their joy in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



*Final Blessing*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us go from this place proclaiming  
that we have seen the glory of God  
Believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness  
Which the darkness shall not overcome  
And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you this Christmas and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Dismissal*

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

*Final Carol*

*(During the singing of the hymn, the Altar party processes out)*  
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.





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.


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.

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.

Isaac Watts (1719)



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**Acknowledgements:**

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989 Provincial Trustees of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.  
Weekly Worship : The Church of Scotland  
The Presbyterian Church of Canada.