

CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS SEASON, EPIPHANY AND AFTER EPIPHANY

Entrance Hymn see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3

Could be omitted after Epiphany.

A Song of Praise for Christ's Birth

To be read alternatively between Leader and Congregation.

In a little town, known for nothing much,
God's holy child was born.
Welcome the Light!

By the faint light of the moon,
Mary and Joseph found their way.
Welcome the Light!

Shown by a courtyard fire,
the open stable door.
Welcome the Light!

Warm breath of resting beasts,
kindly sparkle in their eyes.
Welcome the Light!

In the shadowy stable stall,
Joseph kindled a lamp.
Welcome the Light!

There Mary gave birth to Jesus,
called God-With-Us.
Welcome the Light!

Angels opened the doors of heaven,
sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"
Welcome the Light!

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze,
left their sheep and came to see.
Welcome the Light!

In the darkest winter night,
God set a brilliant star.
Welcome the Light!

**Magi from the East
divined God's shining sign.
Welcome the Light!**

And on this Christmas night
with joy, we greet the Child.
Welcome the Light!

Written by Jennifer Phillips, the Vicar of St. Augustine's
Episcopal Church in Kingston, Rhode Island.
Posted on the [Worship Well](#) website.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Congregation: **We long for a light to guide us.**

Acolyte: You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

Congregation: **We long for God's joy in our lives.**

Worship Leader: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Congregation: **We long to be relieved of all that we carry.**

Acolyte: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Congregation: **He is Emmanuel: God with us.**

In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child, we find our light, our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! God is come!

(Written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational in Rochester, NH).

Song of Praise: *The Benedictus or S280*

The rubrics of the Prayer Book (p. 356) provide that “some other song of praise” may be used in place of the hymn ‘Gloria in excelsis’. The supplemental canticles (pp. 25-41) or those in the Prayer Book (pp. 85-96) are among the appropriate alternatives.

The Benedictus or Canticle of Zachary.

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.
He has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High.
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

ICEL: International Commission on English in the Liturgy

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant and Congregation:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.

SALUTATION

Celebrant: The Love of Christ is always with you.
People: And also, with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day: Christmas

Congregation: God of glory,
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,
where the Light of the world is humbly born
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=5>

Congregation: Joy to the world!
The Lord is come!
Hallelujah!
Amen.

The Collect of the Day. Epiphany

Congregation: Radiant Morning Star,
you are both guidance and mystery,
visit our rest with disturbing dreams,
and our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality
to open our hearts and homes
to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.

The Collect of the Day. Sundays after the Epiphany.

Congregation: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things
Both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications
Of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading *(see insert)*

Reader: A Reading (Lesson) from _____.
A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After the Reading, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Leader: The psalm for the day is in your bulletin insert.

Psalm of the day is read by the worship leader and congregation

The Second Reading *(see insert)*

Reader: A Reading (Lesson) from _____.
A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After the Reading, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: see insert for hymn #, verse 1, 2

Please remain standing

The Holy Gospel *(see insert)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel, silence may be kept.

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gradual Hymn: see insert for hymn #, verse 3

THE SERMON

THE CREED (E8)

We believe in God the Father, God almighty,
by whose plan, earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary, upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended, till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.

So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Savior, Lord, and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory, to the life that knows no end.

-The Church Of England. New Patterns For Worship.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayerworship/worship/texts/newpatterns/contents/sectione.aspx>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

Leader: As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries.
God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As Jesus climbed the mountaintop and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for those listed in our bulletin and remembered now, aloud or in our hearts.

God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

God, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

(Written by Rick Morley, posted on the [Rick Morley](#) blog)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Worship Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbor,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past.
And lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him:
have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/principal-services/holy-communion/order2contemp.aspx>

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

Celebrant: Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

One of the following or another sentence of Scripture is used.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your
Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.16

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth; where moth and rust consume, and where
thieves break in and steal: but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor
moth consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6.19

All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.14

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in
need and yet refuses help?

1 John 3.17

Offertory Hymn see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3

Doxology #380, verse 3

THE HOLY EUCHARIST 1

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks,
all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Worship Leader: (Pick the proper accordingly)

Christmas

Because you gave, Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Epiphany

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge to your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP, P.378

After Epiphany

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing, and fed us with your constant love. You have redeemed us in Jesus Christ, and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit, you replenish us, and call us to fullness of life.

Acolyte: Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels, and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS

(Hymn chosen weekly at choirmaster's discretion)

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image, and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care, that we might be your faithful stewards,
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image, in one another and in ourselves.

We would not see your goodness in the world around us, and so,
we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Worship Leader: Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets, to renew your promise of salvation.

Then in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Given himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

Celebrant: On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Celebrant: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues:

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts, may be filled with the Holy Spirit,
and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Worship Leader: Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons,
that with St. Martin, St. Matthew, St. Clare of Assisi, Mother Teresa of Calcutta,
and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name forever.

Celebrant: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever.

People: **AMEN**

(Enriching our worship1, P. 57-59)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Jesus taught us, we now pray:

**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 those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Any of the following, or a Fraction Anthem from the Hymnal 1982, S167 – S172, may be said or sung in place of the anthem “Christ our Passover” (BCP, P. 364)

We break this bread, to share in the Body of Christ.

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

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant: Come God’s people, come to receive Christ’s heavenly food.

-Thanksgiving Praise-1NewZealand Doc.

All are welcome to God’s Table

Jesus never turned anyone away. We therefore invite all who seek God’s presence to receive Communion. Follow the usher’s directions to the altar rail, where you may kneel or stand. Wine and grape juice are in separate chalices. Gluten free host are available upon request. Children are encouraged to receive the Sacrament, or the Priest will offer a Blessing. If you wish to receive the Sacrament at your seat, please inform the Usher.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

All: **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation,
you have united us with Christ and one another,
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world,
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

(*Enriching our worship*1, P. 69)

THE BLESSING

Worship Leader: May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Acolyte: and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit,
Celebrant: who broods over the world as a mother over her children,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Enriching our worship1, P. 70)

Recessional Hymn: see insert for hymn #, verses 1-3

DISMISSAL

Christmas

Worship Leader: God comes to us now; comes to embrace us.
All: **Emmanuel, God who is with us.**
Acolyte: For this Child is Peace beyond all peace,
All: **Love beyond all loves, Light of light, Song of songs, God almighty!**
Worship Leader: Follow this Child who is Grace beyond all grace,
All: **A Gift beyond all gifts, Joy of joys, God made flesh, almighty!**
Celebrant: Go in joy and love to serve your newborn King!
All: **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Written by Lisa Frenz, in *Christmas Eve: In the Beginning was the Word*, and posted on the [Mount Carmel Lutheran Church](#) website.
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Epiphany and after

Worship Leader: I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.
Congregation: **Thus says God, who created the heavens,
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it.**
Acolyte: I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.
Congregation: **I am the Lord, and I have called you,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you.
I have given you as a covenant to the people
A light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind.**
Worship leader: To bring out the captives from the dungeon,
From the prison, those who sit in darkness
Congregation: **I have given you as a light to the nations,
And I have called you in righteousness.**

(Re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/responsive-litany-isaiah-42-5-8.html>).