

An order for Midnight Mass during a pandemic

*Music is played before the service,
please use this as a space for quiet prayer.
When the bell is rung, please stand.*

*The ministers enter with the Christ-child,
while the carol, 'It came upon the midnight clear' is played.
Please refrain from singing.*

The president standing at the crib says

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven,
stoops heaven to earth.

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Greeting

Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation;
bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith,
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All **Amen.**



Prayers of Penitence

The deacon invites the people to Confession, saying

Christ the Light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

We sit. Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy**

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The president says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We stand to say the Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit for the reading

Reading

The people walking in darkness
 have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
 a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
 and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
 as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice
 when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
 you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
 the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
 and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
 will be fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
 there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and for ever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Isiah 9. 2-7

Gospel Reading

*We remain standing and turn towards the reading of the Gospel.
This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading:*

Today Christ is born: **Alleluia!**

Today the Saviour has come: **Alleluia!**

Today the angels sing on earth: **Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

Luke 2. 1-14

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Carol

Address

Prayers of intercession

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Keep in safety all those who have passed through death
in the hope of heaven.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate his birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Father,
in this holy night angels and shepherds
worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in
fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

We stand. The president, standing at the altar, says

This holy night the angels sang
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'.

Luke 2.14

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a wave or slight bow.

Preparation of the Altar

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
Music is played while this is done. We are invited to pray quietly.*

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. Amen.

We stand

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might..
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ,
and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father in heaven, 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 of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The president holds up the bread and says:

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

All Amen

Giving of Communion

Please remain in your place, standing or sitting, as you prefer.

The Host will be brought to you. Please sit once you have received.

If you would prefer a (silent) blessing please cross your hands over your chest.

We maintain SILENCE throughout.

During the distribution music may be played.

Prayer after Communion

We sit and keep silence

The Post Communion prayer is said:

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for ever.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

We stand, as the president gives the blessing

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Hymn

We remain standing to say together the words of the carol.

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

*Words: Charles Wesley and others
Tune: MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn*

Please remain standing as the ministers leave, and then leave the building immediately, maintaining social distancing.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy, peaceful New Year

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