

***Welcome in this
Christmas season***

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen**

CAROL

We make a new start with God

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world. *cf Matthew 1.21*

God our Father;
You sent your Son full of grace and truth:
Forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
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.
Christ, have mercy.

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

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CAROL

We hear God's Word

THE FIRST READING

At the end This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

We stand for the gospel reading
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

TALK

THE NICENE CREED

We affirm our faith

**We believe in one God, the Father,
the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



We pray for others and ourselves

We share Christ's Peace

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and
his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

CAROL

During which the collection is taken and presented

We thank God for his gifts to us

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:



**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables
with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again and is alive with you
to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts
we may feed on Christ

with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food

offer ourselves to live for you

and be welcomed at your feast in heaven

where all creation worships you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory

and power be yours for ever and ever Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

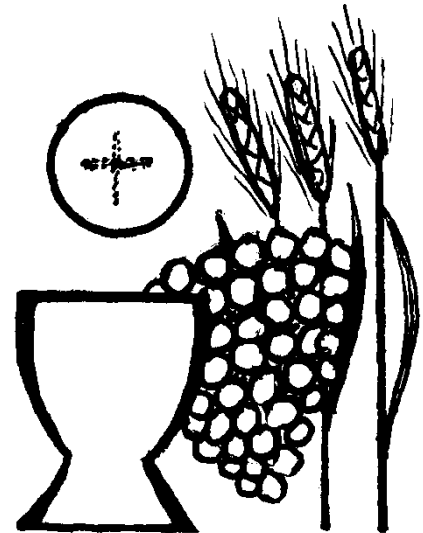
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.



BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

God here among us,

light in the midst of us,

bring us to light and life.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Draw near with faith...

This prayer may be said

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*If you are used to taking communion elsewhere
you are welcome to do so here.*

*Gluten free bread and alcohol-free wine are available, please ask for these
from the person distributing communion.*

*If you would prefer to receive an individual prayer of blessing,
then please go forward as well, and bring this booklet with you.*

During the distribution carols may be sung.

Please join in if you wish to.

The carol numbers will be displayed on the board by the pulpit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Silence is kept.*

**God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith
illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen**

CAROL

We receive God's Blessing and Commission

BLESSING PRAYER

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you for sharing our worship today.

We wish you a Happy New Year!

If you'd like to explore more about the Christian faith yourself,

Why not come to the next Alpha Course?

For more details please talk to one of the Welcomers,

phone the Church Office 01803 214175

or look at www.st-matthias-church.org



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