

Christmas Eve Eucharist

Sentence: I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Hymn

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will fill our hearts with love, so that we and all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.



Advent Wreath, Candle Lighting for Christmas Eve: Glorify

In the beginning was the Word – spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

Glorify the Lord with me –God’s promise is true!

The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.

Eternal and near at hand, already and not yet, God’s promise is the foundation of all life.

Glory to God! The Word is made flesh, giving voice to God’s promise yet again. (Candle is lit.)

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.

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.

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: 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.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Collect for Christmas Eve: Let us Pray: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Proclamation of the Word

Isaiah 9.2–7

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations

And his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

He is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

But it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;

Ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;

Bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes,

When he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness

And the peoples with his truth.

We worship you, God of glory, in the beauty of holiness, and we joyfully proclaim your just and righteous rule, established for all, through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord.

Titus 2.11–14

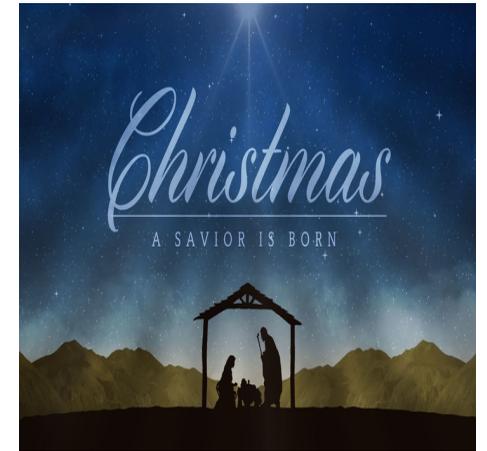
Gradual Hymn

Luke 2.1–14, (15–20)

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,



All: 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People (After each petition, the response to, God of love, is **grant our prayer**.)

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfil in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like

them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light. God of love, **grant our prayer**.

Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfil your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **Amen**.

Confession and Forgiveness

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The members of the community, ministers and people, may greet one another in the name of the Lord

Offertory Hymn

Prayer over the Gifts: Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever.

Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer

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 indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing,

All: 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.

Celebrant: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever.

In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

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

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting

us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

All: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of Bread for the Incarnation

Celebrant: 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.

All Baptised Christians are welcome to receive at this Table. You may come forward for a blessing as well if you do not wish to receive the bread and wine.

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing for the Incarnation

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Hymn

Dismissal

Leader: Unto us a child is born.

All: Unto us a Son is given.

Leader: Gracious God, your love was so great for us that you gave us your Son to shine out in our darkness. Help us as we are sent out, to make that love known to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rev. Darlene and every member of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County (ACPC) wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and pray that you will know the presence of the incarnate Christ in your hearts and lives.

