



*Peace of the Gospel.*

*“He shall speak peace to the nations.” (Zech 9:10)*

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## Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people.

**And has raised up a horn of salvation for us,  
In the house of his servant David.**

*(Luke 1:68-69)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
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.**

## *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel !*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel;  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,  
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law,  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*J. M. Neale (1851)*

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,  
first in silence and then aloud together. *Please kneel or be seated.*

## *Prayer of Confession*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.  
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined,  
righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## *Assurance of Pardon*

*"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)*

## *Psalm 131 (O LORD, My Heart, It Is Not Proud)*

O LORD, my heart, it is not proud,  
Nor have my eyes been lifted high;  
Great matters are not my concern,  
Nor things too wonderful for me.

O Israel, set your hope in God,  
And place your trust firm in the Lord.  
All you, His people, hope in Him,  
From this time forth and ever more.

But I have calmed and stilled my soul;  
A child, weaned in his mother's arms.  
And like that child, I am content,  
And deep within, my soul is warm.

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## God's Word

*First Reading: Eph 2:11-23, p. 976*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

*Psalm 122*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

**as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"**

For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

**For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!**

*Second Reading: Zech 9:9-17, p. 797*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Peace of the Gospel (Mark Payne)*

## *Psalm 96: O Sing a New Song to the Lord*

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
All earth sing to the Lord.  
Sing to the Lord, and bless His name;  
'He saves' each day proclaim.  
His glory to all nations show;  
His deeds let peoples know.

The Lord is great, great praise He's due.  
He's feared above all gods.  
For peoples' gods mere idols are;  
The Lord the heavens made.  
Before Him honor, majesty,  
And strength and splendor dwell.

O families of earth, ascribe  
All glory to the Lord.  
All strength ascribe unto the Lord,  
Give glory due His name.  
Come to the Lord, in majesty,  
And strength and splendor dwell.

In beautiful and holy robes  
Bring worship to the LORD.  
All earth, before Him stand in awe;  
Proclaim, "The LORD is King!"  
Controlled by Him, the world stands firm;  
His judgments justice bring.

Let heav'ns be glad  
and earth rejoice.  
Let seas roar for the LORD;  
From all that fills the heights and depths  
To Him be joy outpoured;  
Let fields and forest trees sing out  
A song of endless joy.

Let all prepare to greet the LORD,  
Because He coming is.  
He surely comes to judge the earth.  
And righteousness is His  
He'll nations judge with faithfulness,  
The world with justice bless.

*Words: The Book of Psalms for Singing*

## *The Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

*After each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour taught us, let us 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

# The Lord's Supper

## *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us.**

**We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.**

**We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory. Amen.**

## *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

*"Honour the LORD with your wealth*

*and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)*

## Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him  
robed in glorious majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing,  
shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!  
*Charles Wesley (1758)*

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## Benediction

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

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## Notices for Calendars & Prayers

### In the week...

Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day Service	<b>**9.30am**</b>
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Morning Worship	<b>10am</b>

## Advent Series to Christmas

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Need for the Gospel (Zech 3:1-10)	10am
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Joy in the Gospel (Psalm 126)	10am
<b>Today</b>	<b>Peace of the Gospel (Zech 9:9-17)</b>	<b>10am</b>
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Consummation of the Gospel (Luke 2:1-21)</b>	<b><u>** 9:30am **</u></b>

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV). CCLI Licence: 731672.*