St Peter's, Bishop's Waltham

Christmas Night Communion

Rizza Setting



You are welcome with us on this Christmas Eve whether you have come in person or are joining us online.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Advent Candles are lit followed by:

We have come together tonight in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
A light no darkness can quench.
The shepherds kept watch by night:
And your glory shone round about them.
The darkness is not dark to you:
The night is as bright as the day.
Let your light scatter the darkness:
And fill your Church with your glory. Amen

Carol

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and
The Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Please sit or kneel

Invitation to Confession:
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.

Please keep a moment of quiet then:
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.

God's forgiveness is declared followed by the Gloria:

Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth, 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.
Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, Peace to his people, peace to his people on earth.
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; for you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer.
You alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Lord.
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory, the glory, the glory of God the Father. Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

A Prayer for Christmas Night:
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**

Bible Readings

Old Testament Reading

Carol *(Please stand)*

Gospel Reading

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

Christmas Message *(Please sit)*



Prayers

-for Christmas
-for The World
-for The Needy
-for The Church

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Communion Prayer

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Carol
During which a collection is taken.

Thanksgiving prayers are said for the Congregation's gifts and bread and wine:

Loving Father, we thank you for the greatest of gifts you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem.

We offer our gifts of service and our possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown to us.

We give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine to help us remember your son's death for each one of us. Hear our prayer for the sake of your Son who was born this night, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Please sit

A welcome is given to communion or for a blessing then:

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 thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might, heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name,
He who comes in the name of the Lord hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Last Supper is recalled then:

Choir: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.
the prayer continues until **Amen.**

Silence is kept

We pray together (said):
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.

We break the bread of life and that life is the light of the world.
God is here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.

Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace,
grant us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion:
Jesus is the true bread which came down from heaven
Lord, give us this bread always.

Please come for communion or a blessing. If you receive communion in any Christian Church, you are very welcome here with us.

If you would like personal prayer, for yourself or someone else, please speak with the service leader afterwards.
Please sing or keep a prayerful silence during the giving of communion.

After Communion, a Post-Communion Prayer, then:

God our Father, your word came among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith light up our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Jesus who is the Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God almighty The Father, the son and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Carol

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

A Happy Christmas from all at St Peter's and our prayers for a peaceful night.



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