

# Holy Communion On Christmas Night



*St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale*

*St Mark's Church, Ninebanks*

*Holy Trinity Church, Whitfield*

*The Gathering*

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.

*First Hymn or Carol*

*The Greeting*

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

**All and also with you.**

**Blessing of the Crib**

*(If there is no dedication of the crib, the service continues with the Prayers of Penitence)*

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*

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.

*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.**

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

**All Amen**

*Gloria in Excelsis*

*We stand if able to*

**All Glory to God, 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,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory,**

**Glory to God, to God in the highest.**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Glory to God, to God in the highest.**

**and 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;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer, receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen. Amen.**

*The Collect*

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

*Silence is kept.*

*The Collect of the Day*

*The Liturgy of the Word*

*We sit for the reading(s), at the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Second Hymn or Carol*

*Gospel Reading*

*If able to, we stand for the reading of The Gospel.*

Today Christ is born:

**All Alleluia.**

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

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit while a sermon is preached and then stand to reaffirm our faith*

*The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty.

**All** **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.

**All** **God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.**

Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

**All** **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.

**All** **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.

**All** **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.

**All** **The Lord, the giver of life.**

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**All** **With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

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

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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 [...and] 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 [...and] 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 [...and 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. Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

**All hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians, the world over celebrate Christ's 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 Liturgy of the Sacrament  
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

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Third hymn or carol*

*Preparation of the Table*

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

**All Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

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.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

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

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new



covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

*The Lord's Prayer*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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*

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** Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus Redeemer of the world give us your peace.

*Giving of Communion*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All** Lord, give us this bread always.

*Prayer of Humble Access*

**All** We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.

*We receive communion; and reply 'Amen'*

*Prayer after Communion*

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.

**All** To him be glory both now and for ever. 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.

*Final Hymn or Carol*

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

*The Dismissal*

The Word was made flesh and lived among us.

**All** And we have seen his glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.